

materials for various enduses, including manufacture of paper, pulp and other products.

(b) The planting of seedlings and monitoring their survival and growth are primarily carried out by various agencies of the State Governments. No independent evaluation has been made to test the accuracy of these figures.

(c) Government are developing an operational guide for the monitoring and evaluation of afforestation programmes, implemented by the State Governments and non-government organisations, for monitoring the progress of items like production of seedlings (both departmental as well as through decentralised nurseries), distribution for planting, survival rate, utilisation of funds and tree patta schemes.

Development of Wasteland in Bihar

9169. SHRI C.P. THAKUR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the schemes Government propose to undertake for development of wasteland in Bihar; and

(b) the progress thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI) : (a) The National Wastelands Development Board has drawn up an action plan for development of wastelands. A copy of this plan is given in the statement given below. The various elements mentioned in the plan would be applicable to the State of Bihar as well.

(b) The details of progress, in development of wastelands in Bihar would be collected and placed on the Table of the House.

Statement

Action Plan for Development of Wastelands

1. Identification of Wastelands :

The State Governments/U.Ts. have been requested to identify wastelands in their

territories, whether they be in forest area, revenue/common lands or degraded farmlands.

2. People's Involvement :

This will be ensured by the following measures :

(a) Decentralised Nurseries : People's Nurseries *i.e.* kisans, schools, women, youth groups, voluntary agencies etc. will be motivated to meet the increased demand for seedlings.

(b) Farm Forestry : Farmers will be motivated to take up tree farming on their marginal lands and planting on their field bunds. A rational seedlings distribution policy should be evolved.

(c) Tree Grower's Cooperatives : Tree Growers' cooperatives should be organised with the involvement of farmers in raising and distribution of seedlings and in tree plantations.

(d) Voluntary Agencies : The grass-root agencies, Mahilla Mandal, youth groups would also be motivated in nursery raising and tree plantations.

(e) Tree Pattas : Strips of land along roads, rail, canals, etc., and other degraded land should be given to the rural poor, with usufruct rights on the trees planted by them on such lands.

3. Nodal Agency :

The State/U.T. Governments have been requested to identify a single nodal agency for ensuring an integrated approach for the implementation of the programme which is being executed by different agencies, official and otherwise.

4. Seed :

The State/UTs have been requested to extend the scope of operation of the existing State Seed Corporations to include the production and supply of fodder, grass and legume seeds to farmers on commercial basis.

5. Leasing of Lands :

The State/UT Governments have been requested to prepare guidelines for leasing of forest and non-forest wastelands for afforestation to the rural poor.

6. Forest based industries :

These must be encouraged to afforest wastelands to produce the raw material needed by them. Industries must also be enthused to raise tree cover on wastelands with a view to provide employment to the rural poor as well as to enable them to grow trees on a remunerative basis. The State Governments have been requested to draw up guidelines for the lease of wastelands to industries in this behalf.

7. Urban Fuelwood and Green Belts :

The States/UTs have been requested to ensure that towns and cities have green belts of fuelwood and fodder plantations to cater to the urban fuelwood and fodder needs.

8. Degraded Forest Areas :

States have been requested to identify, degraded forest lands and to reforest them with fuelwood and fodder species.

9. Forest Development Corporations :

The Forest Development Corporations should obtain wastelands on lease from the Governments for raising fuelwood and fodder plantations.

10. Government Departments :

Government Departments, public sector undertakings and other bodies/institutions having substantial areas of unutilised lands must bring such land under tree cover.

11. Media and communication :

A massive publicity campaign through the traditional media of folk art and culture, radio, television and other audio visual aids should be undertaken to create awareness among the masses.

12. Monitoring and Evaluation :

The State/UT Governments should evolve appropriate monitoring and evalua-

tion mechanisms to ensure qualitative implementation of the programme.

[*Translation*]

**Reconstitution of Non-Official
Freedom Fighters Advisory
Committee**

9170. SHRI VIJOY KUMAR YADAV : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the basis followed for constitution of Non-Official Freedom Fighters Advisory Committee and the names of the nominated members therein;

(b) whether any meeting of the newly constituted Advisory Committee was held in New Delhi on 18th Feb., 1986;

(c) if so, the details of the decisions taken therein ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS. (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) to (c). A Non-Official Advisory Committee to advise the Ministry of Home Affairs on matters of policy arising during the implementation of the Swatantrata Sainik Samman Pension Scheme was set up by the Government of India in April, 1981. The Committee consists of eminent freedom fighters of All-India Standing having knowledge of freedom movement of the country, besides the Minister in the Ministry of Home Affairs concerned with the implementation of the Scheme.

2. This Committee has now been reconstituted and it consists of the following :

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| 1. Minister of Home Affairs | —Chairman |
| 2. Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs (Internal Security) | —Member |
| 3. Ministry of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs (States) | —Member |