

(c) and (d) Hon'ble Supreme Court has directed all North-Eastern states to notify industrial estates for locating the wood-based industries in consultation with Ministry of Environment and Forests. State Governments are in process of identification and notification of industrial estates.

[Translation]

**LPT into HPT at Kolhapur, Maharashtra**

5676. SHRI KALLAPPA AWADE:  
SHRI SADASHIVRAO D. MANDLIK:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received complaints about poor telecast from the areas where Low Power TV Transmitters have been installed;

(b) if so, the measures being taken by the Government in this regard;

(c) whether any proposal is under consideration of the Government for converting these Low Power Transmitter into High Power Transmitters in the country particularly in the Kolhapur district of Maharashtra;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) Though the quality of telecast from all the transmitters is reported to be satisfactory, there are complaints regarding many Low Power Transmitters (LPTs) not providing full time transmission mainly due to staff shortage.

(b) Prasar Bharati has initiated action for suitably augmenting staff strength at LPTs facing staff shortage. These are also envisaged to give full time transmission by the first week of October, 1998.

(c) to (e) The scheme for upgradation of 42 LPTs into HPTs are presently under implementation. No LPT is being upgraded to HPT in the Kolhapur district of Maharashtra. However, a new HPT is proposed to be set up at Mahapatgarh in Kolhapur district subject to sanction of the scheme by the competent authority and availability of adequate resources, other Infrastructural facilities and *inter se* priorities.

**UNCCD**

5677. SHRI GAURISHANKER CHATURBHUIJ BISEN:  
Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have signed United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in December, 1996;

(b) if so, whether there is any policy to ensure people's participation in UNCCD;

(c) if so, whether any National Action Plan has been prepared so as to ensure the women's participation in the programme; and

(d) if so, the success achieved so far and the steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) to (d) The Government of India signed the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) in October, 1994 and ratified it in December, 1996. The strategy to combat Desertification outlined in the Convention is based on extensive people's participation. The Government of India has several programmes and schemes for plantation and soil conservation, including in the arid areas and deserts. An illustrative list of these schemes is attached as Statement. These schemes are implemented with participation of local communities, including women.

**Statement**

**(a) Ministry of Environment and Forests**

- (1) Integrated Afforestation and Eco-development Projects Scheme.
- (2) Area Oriented Fuelwood and Fodder Projects Scheme.
- (3) Non-Timber Forest produce including Medicinal Plants Scheme.
- (4) Grants-in-Aid to Voluntary Agencies.
- (5) Association of Scheduled Tribes and Rural Poor in the Regeneration of degraded forests.