

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) and (b) The State Government of West Bengal has informed the Central Government regarding the decrease in mangrove forests and some mangrove species in the Sunderban areas. The reasons stated for this decrease include, position of Bengal basin formed as a result of the Neo-tectonic movement, reclamation of habitat area through bunding and erection of earthen dams, lack of proper tidal flushing of the areas, change in the salinity regime and siltation, lack of employment sources for the inhabitants in the Sunderbans resulting in their dependence on mangrove forests. The State Government of Orissa has reported that deforestation of mangrove forests has taken place in Kendrapara, Jagatsinghpur and Bhadrak districts due to unauthorised prawn culture activities.

(c) and (d) Government of India initiated a scheme for conservation and management of mangroves in 1987. Fifteen mangrove areas in the country have been identified for intensive conservation under the scheme. Grants are released to the concerned State Governments/Union Territories for implementation of Management Action Plans of these areas.

Under different schemes, Government of West Bengal has raised mangrove plantation in an area of 6,782 ha. Approximately 2,585 sq kms of the area is being conserved under Tiger Project out of which 1330 sq kms has been designated as Sunderban National Park. In addition, physical protection and prevention of biotic interference is provided through regular patrolling. Plantations of non-mangrove species have been raised in areas outside the forests for meeting local needs of firewood and small timber, alternate energy conservation devices of solar power, smokeless chullahs etc. have been distributed to people. Forest Protection Committees and Eco-Development Committees in the fringe areas of mangrove forests have been formed which provide voluntary protection to the mangrove forests. There are till now 21 Forest Protection and 14 Eco-Development Committees involving 16427 families providing protection to approximately 772 sq km of forest area. Eco-development activities are targetted to provide alternate sources of income and making the people self-sufficient to decrease pressure on mangrove forests.

Government of Orissa have initiated administrative measures for evacuation of encroachments and an area of 6,772 acres has been freed from encroachment till 27.6.1997 and 4,83,600 hypocotyles of mangrove species have been planted on this area.

#### Identification of People Below Poverty Line

983. SHRI ISWAR PRASANNA HAZARIKA :  
SHRI SOHAN VEER SINGH :  
SHRI MOHAN RAWALE :  
SHRI SATYAJITSINH DULIPSINH GAEKWAD:  
SHRI SHATRUGHAN PRASAD SINGH :  
SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO :  
SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT :  
SHRI HANSRAJ AHIR :  
CHAUDHARY RAMCHANDRA BENDA :  
DR. RAMVILAS VEDANTI :  
SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT :  
SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI NAVINCHANDRA MEHTA :  
SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the States/Union Territories have prepared themselves for distribution of foodgrains at subsidised price to those below the poverty line through the Public Distribution System/Targetted Public Distribution System;

(b) if so, whether the persons below the poverty line have been identified by all the States;

(c) if so, whether the Ministry have received any report from the State Governments in this regard;

(d) if not, the details of the States that have not completed the process so far.

(e) the names of the controlling authority for the new PDS and the steps taken to ensure that beneficiaries get their due; and

(f) the extent to which the State Governments have been able to help the poor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI RAGHUVANS PRASAD SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Targetted PDS has been introduced in all States and UTs except in Punjab, Delhi, Goa and UT of Lakshadweep.

(b) Governments of Punjab, Delhi, Goa and UT administration of Lakshadweep are identifying BPL population. All other States have identified the BPL population.

(c) Yes, Sir. Reports have been received from all the States/UTs. except Punjab, Delhi, Goa States and UT of Lakshadweep.

(d) Government of Punjab, Delhi, Goa and UT of Lakshadweep have not completed the process of making necessary preparations for implementing the TPDS.

(e) Under the scheme Panchayats and Nagarpalikas have been given the responsibility for supervising and overseeing the work of Fair Price Shops. Each Fair Price Shop will display the details of the authority to which the card holder can report grievances. States/UTs have constituted Vigilance Committees, drawn up Inspection Schedules and taken steps for greater transparency.

(f) About 586.64 lakh BPL families will be benefited under the scheme.

#### **Threat to CBI Personnel**

984. PROF. OM PAL SINGH 'NIDAR' :  
SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT :  
SHRI BHIMRAO VISHNUJI BADADE :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the officials of the CBI investigation fodder scam have been threatened;

(b) if so, the facts and details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government have taken steps to provide/ensure adequate security and safety to CBI officials dealing with sensitive scams; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

#### **National Programme on Integrated Pest Management**

985. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the year in which the National Programme on Integrated Pest Management (IPM) was launched;

(b) the details of achievement made and the allocation of fund provided so far;

(c) whether the Government have undertaken any survey to ascertain the benefits of the programme being provided to the farmers under the said programme;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) The Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Programme in the country was initiated in the year 1981. The Government of India adopted IPM as main strategy in the crop production programmes since 1985. However, the National IPM Programme was launched in the year 1994-95 in collaboration with the State Deptt. of Agriculture, Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and the State Agricultural Universities.

(b) Under the National IPM Programme, the main thrust has been given to pest-surveillance and monitoring, promotion of bio-control methods and Human Resource Development through field trainings and demonstrations. Since 1994-95 to 1996-97, 812 master trainers, 21,145 Agriculture Extension Officers and 1,40,068 farmers have been trained in IPM through 4692 Farmer's Field Schools (FFSs) in rice, cotton, vegetable, oilseeds and pulse crops. During the 8th Plan period, the Government has allocated Rs. 45 crores for a Central Sector Scheme "Central IPM Centres". Besides, an allocation of Rs. 15.00 crores was made as Grants-in-aid to help the States to strengthen their Biocontrol Laboratories during the 8th Plan period. On the basis of progress made by the State Governments, an amount of Rs. 10.68 crores has been provided to the States under the Scheme.

(c) to (e) Sample studies and assessment indicate that IPM programme is very cost-effective and eco-friendly. The farmers are very receptive and responsive to its adoption.

#### **Welfare Schemes**

986. SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN :  
SHRI SOHAN VEER SINGH :  
SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS :  
DR. RAMVILAS VEDANTI :  
SHRI B.L. SHANKAR :

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of schemes launched by the Government for the upliftment of Weaker Sections of the country during the Eighth Plan;