

with the standard of education imparted by these schools?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (PROF. M.G.K. MENON): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e): No evaluation has yet been undertaken regarding the extent to which the purposes for which Navodaya Vidyalayas were set up, have been fulfilled. Government have, as of now, decided to review the Navodaya Vidyalaya Scheme. Until this is completed no new Navodaya Vidyalayas will be opened; but the existing ones will be supported as per the original plans.

Promotion of Nurseries

6140. SHRI C.M. NEGI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a plan to promote people's nurseries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the financial assistance provided to Uttar Pradesh government during the last three years, yearwise, in this regard;

(d) whether some specific amounts have been earmarked/spent on promotion of such nurseries in Uttar Pradesh; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) and (b). Decentralised People's Nurseries are being promoted under a Centrally

Sponsored Scheme, which was initiated in 1986. Under the Scheme, funds are provided to the States and Union territories in the beginning of the season to raise seedlings through local organisation like Schools Mahila Mandals, etc.

(c) to (e). The Government of Uttar Pradesh did not avail of any assistance under the Scheme in 1987-88 and 1988-89. In 1989-90, a total amount of Rs. 210 lakhs was provided under the Scheme to Uttar Pradesh Government. In addition, 19 voluntary agencies in Uttar Pradesh have been provided a total amount amount of Rs. 17.50 lakhs for raising their own nurseries under the projects sanctioned in their favour.

[*Translation*]

Remote Sensing Photography of forest Cover in Country

6141. SHRI GIRDHARILAL BHARGAWA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the studies of forests cover are being conducted since 1972 by the National Remote Sensing Agency, Hyderabad from photographs received through Satellite;

(b) whether the area of forest cover is constantly declining; and

(c) if so, the areas under forests in States and Union Territories in 1972 and the percentage of decline registered in this regard at present according to NRSA data?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (PROF. M.G.K. MENON): (a) National level forest cover mapping and

monitoring using satellite imageries was carried out by National Remote Sensing Agency for the years 1972-75, at reconnaissance level scale on 1:1 Million as a first effort to develop the methodology. Subsequently the operational methodology for estimation of national forest cover using satellite imageries was jointly evolved by National Remote Sensing Agency (NRSA) of Department of Space and Forest Survey of India (FSI) of Department of Environment, Forest and Wildlife.

(b) and (c). For the periods 1981-83, FSI and NRSA jointly estimated the country's total forest cover as 19.52% of the total geographical area of the country. FSI is currently carrying out biennial monitoring of forest cover of India on a routine basis using satellite imageries supplied by NRSA to monitor the changes that are occurring in forest cover at the State level. The current estimate by FSI for the time period of 1985-87 has shown the total forest cover as 19.47% of the total geographical area of the country. There has been a reduction of about 1900 Sq. Km. in the total forest cover, notwithstanding an increased about 17000 Sq. Km. in the dense forest cover (crown density more than 40%).

[English]

Difficulties Arising out of Implementation of Indian Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980

6142. PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Will the

<i>Total received</i>	<i>Total approved</i>	<i>Total not Approved</i>	<i>Total rejected for non-furnishing of information</i>	<i>Pending</i>	<i>Withdrawn</i>
1	2	3	4	5	6
4023	1967	547	1268	134	107

PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the fast depletion of forest could be checked by the implementation of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980;

(b) if so, the extent to which it could be checked;

(c) whether there are complaints from different parts of the country about the developmental projects being affected by the implementation of the Act;

(d) the names of projects held up due to Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980; and

(e) the steps being taken to clear them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI):

(a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Since the enactment of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 the rate of diversion of forest land has gone down from 1,50,000 ha. per annum during the period 1951-1980 to 15,400 ha. per annum during 1980-1989.

(c) and (d). Statement showing position of proposals received from the States/UTs under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 as on 31.3.1990 is as below: