

Participation of Unemployed Youth in Social Forestry Scheme

6984. SHRI ASHOK ANANDRAO DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any scheme for unemployed youth to earn their livelihood by participating in Social Forestry Scheme; and

(b) if so, since when this scheme is in operation and the number of States where the scheme is in operation and the number of unemployed youth benefiting therefrom so far and the details of benefits accruing to them therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) Social Forestry Programme provides employment to various categories of persons, including unemployed youth.

(b) social Forestry programme has been in operation since the Sixth Five Year Plan and was under implementation in all the States during the Seventh Five Year Plan period. The exact benefits derived by the unemployed youth under the programme are not possible to quantify.

Works of M. P. Pending Forest Clearance

6985. SHRI RESHAM LAL JANGDE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of projects, schemes and other works for which Madhya Pradesh Government has sought Central approval for use of forest land in the last three years;

(b) the acreage of forest land allowed to be used therefor;

(c) the area of forest land in respect of which request is still pending with Government for approval or has not been approved;

(d) the area of waste forest land in Madhya Pradesh at present and the reasons for not allowing this waste forest land to be used for irrigation projects in Madhya Pradesh;

(e) whether the State Government or the Union Government propose to undertake afforestation in such waste forest land; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) Names of Projects and other works for which clearance under Forest (Conservations) Act, 1980 has been sought by State Government of Madhya Pradesh is given in the statement below.

(b) Central Government has approved diversion of 49661.199 hectares of forest land for non-forestry purposes in respect of 64 cases which has been cleared since 1.4.1987.

(c) 60 proposals involving diversion of 2.60 lakh hectares of forest area were pending for clearance as on 31.3.1990.

(d) Total degraded forest land in Madhya Pradesh is 71.95 lakh hectares. Use of forest land for irrigation schemes is considered as per the provisions of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 on receipt of proposals from State Government.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) National Wasteland Development Board fixes State wise targets of afforestation in consultation with State Government on year to year basis.