

tary organisations have also been invited to these programmes; and

(d) the steps the Government propose to encourage involvement of voluntary organisations in social forestry schemes?

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. Afforestation/Tree planting activities which include Social Forestry, are being undertaken under various Central and State Plan Schemes. The progress of the last three years is given below:

1987-88	1989-89 (in million ha.)	(in million ha.)
Target	1.79	2.00
Achievement	1.77	2.12

The target of 1989-90 is 1.71 million ha., which is expected to be achieved.

(c) and (d). Voluntary organizations are already being involved in Social Forestry and Wastelands Development activities. Financial assistance is provided for this purpose under the Grant-in-aid Scheme of the National Wastelands Development Board, which was started in 1985. The Council for Advancement of People's Action and Rural Technology also provides financial support to Voluntary Organizations for rural development activities including social forestry.

Clearance to Deraparai Project

4070. SHRI R. MUTHAIAH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal for forest clearance for a medium irrigation project namely, Deraparai Reservoir in Madurai district has been sent by Government of Tamil Nadu; and

(b) if so, the reasons for delay in giving consent for the project?

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) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Providing Text Books at Reasonable Rates

4071. SHRI HET RAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have reviewed the price structure of the various text books prescribed in the schools/colleges and universities in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by Government to make the text books available to the students particularly belonging to the weaker sections of society at reasonable prices?