

people's land to anybody. If under compelling circumstances, the land is not available, and if there is a scheme to set up an industry, the concerned State Government gets it acquired and then allots it. This is also our endeavour to develop wasteland and to plant trees on it so that environment is kept free of pollution.

DR. CHANDRA SHEKHAR TRIPATHI :
Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the Hon. Minister as to how much wasteland is there in the country and whether any survey has been conducted in this respect? Secondly, the Government have got a number of schemes to make the wasteland productive, but these development schemes cannot be executed, because the Government do not get land. Will the Government start development activities on wasteland on priority basis and if so, what steps are proposed to be taken in this regard in future and by when?

SHRI BHAJAN LAL : Sir, the area of the country as a whole is about 33 crore hectares. The statistics show that about 17.5 crore hectares come under wasteland. We have conducted survey and have also chalked out a programme as to where trees can be planted, where fruit bearing trees can be grown and which of the wasteland is suitable for growing fuel wood. Depending upon the climatic conditions and topography of the area, we shall try to grow whatever is possible on that particular wasteland.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Expert team on pollution danger

***126. SHRI V. S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN :**
Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any expert team has been set up to study the danger of pollution caused by industries as well as the safety systems existing in industrial units handling hazardous materials; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BHAJAN LAL) :

(a) and (b). Surveys of selected chemical and petrochemical units have been conducted through expert panels, for evolving guidelines and recommendations on safety measures in such units. Expert teams have also been set up in several States for recommending measures for safety in the industrial units handling hazardous chemicals.

Indo-US joint research

***127. SHRI G. S. BASAVARAJU :**
SHRI H. N. NANJE GOWDA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have identified new areas of Indo-US research in the field of science and technology;

(b) the areas of joint Indo-US research identified;

(c) whether any agreement in this regard has been reached; and

(d) if so, when the implementation of these projects is likely to be taken up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN) : (a) to (d). At the 8th meeting of the Indo-US Sub-Commission on Science and Technology where the progress and emphasis in a wide spectrum of disciplines comes in for a periodic review, held at Washington D C. on September 22-24, 1986 it was decided to further collaboration in the following S and T fields :-

(i) Physical and Material Sciences;

(ii) Earth, Atmospheric and Marine Sciences;

(iii) Energy;

(iv) Environment and Ecology;

(v) Information Science and Technology;

(vi) Health, Medical and Life Sciences,