

[*Translation*]

Cleansing of Bhoj Wetland, M.P.

959. SHRI S.C. VERMA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Madhya Pradesh have submitted any proposal regarding development of Bhoj Wetland to the Union Government;

(b) if so, the total cost of the project and the amount released by Union Government to the Government of Madhya Pradesh for this purpose till date; and

(c) the future pattern of allocations for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NILAMANI ROUTRAY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The total cost of the project is Rs. 65.73 crores. This has been posed for Japanese assistance. In the meantime, selected schemes involving an outlay of Rs. 8,63,100 have been funded under the wetland programme of the Ministry during the last two years.

(c) The pattern of assistance under wetland programme is 100 assistance by Government of India.

Schemes for Wasteland in Rajasthan

960. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the total area of Wasteland in Rajasthan;

(b) the details of schemes contemplated

for its utilisation, reclamation and afforestation;

(c) the total cost of these schemes;

(d) whether there is any scope for cooperation from private organisations and individuals in the development of wasteland; and

(e) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NILAMANI ROUTRAY): (a) The total estimated area of wastelands in Rajasthan is 199.34 lakh hectares.

(b) and (c). Wastelands development schemes are already under implementation in Rajasthan in the Central and State sectors including the externally-aided National Social Forestry Project. The expenditure incurred and the area covered under the schemes during the Seventh Five Year Plan are given below:—

Expenditure incurred :	Rs. 125.79 Crores.
Area covered :	2.84 lakh hectares.

(d) and (e). The policy of the Government is to involve voluntary organisations and local people in afforestation and wasteland development. Voluntary agencies are also assisted under the Grants-in-aid Scheme to take up projects for afforestation and wasteland development through the cooperation of local people. From the inception of the Grants-in-Aid Scheme in 1985-86 to date, 39 voluntary agencies in Rajasthan have been assisted through sanction of Rs. 536.21 lakhs to take up projects for afforestation and wasteland development.

29 Tree Growers Cooperatives have