

FORESTS

412. Shri Ganpati Ram: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the total area (State-wise) covered by the several types of forests;

(b) what effective measures have been undertaken by the Forest Research Institute for natural regeneration of forests and to meet the demand of timber and fuel in the country; and

(c) whether the plantation of forests has been increased and if so, to what extent?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Karmarkar): (a) The hon. Member's attention is invited to the reply given to part (a) of Starred Question No. 818 answered on 13-6-52. Further analysis of the areas by types of forests is not available.

(b) The Forest Research Institute conducts researches on methods of natural regeneration of various species, and the results are circulated amongst all the States. These are contained in the Institute's annual reports which are available in the library of the House. The States apply the successful methods of regeneration to their timber and fuel forests, thus ensuring continuous supply against the heavy demand.

(c) Yes. All the States raise plantations of economically important species. The total area of forests artificially regenerated annually all over India is about 256 sq. miles.

TUBE-WELLS IN U. P.

413. Shri H. N. Mukerjee: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether contracts were given by the Government of India last year to certain firms for digging tube-wells in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) the names of the firms and the amount of money involved in the contracts; and

(c) the progress, to date, of the operation?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Karmarkar): (a) The Government of India did not give any contract for the construction of tube-wells in U.P. to any firm. The Government of Uttar Pradesh, however, entered into a contract with a firm in December, 1950 for the construction of 440 tube-wells in the State.

(b) The name of the firm is Messrs. Associated Tube Wells Ltd. and the amount of money involved in the contract is about Rs. 141 lakhs.

(c) According to the progress reports, the contractors have completed about 25 per cent. of the total work so far and the remaining work is in progress.

SCHEDULED CASTES IN CENTRAL SERVICES

414. Shri Ajit Singh: Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) the number of the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and the backward classes men who have been given services in the Central Secretariat under the reservation scheme of the Government of India; and

(b) what sort of services have they been given (rank-wise)?

The Minister of Home Affairs and States (Dr. Katju): (a) and (b). Information regarding the number of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes employed in the Central Secretariat is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House in due course.

The question as to what classes of citizens other than Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes should be recognized as "backward" and what concessions (including reservation in services) should be granted to them, will be considered after the recommendations of the Commission to be set up by the President under Article 340(1) of the Constitution become available.