

conducted on waste management promotion.

7. Financial assistance for Research project for using Municipal Solid Waste for road construction has been provided.
8. Use of Upflow Anerobic Sludge Blanket Reactor (USAB) Technology for treatment of waste water and vermiculture for converting urban wastes into compost are promoted.

#### **Artificial Reefs and Mariculture**

\*359. SHRI. G. MADE GOWDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce artificial reefs and mariculture along the coastal line in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the coastal like in Karnataka has been included in the above project; and

(d) if so, the amount likely to be spent for the projects during 1994-95 in each State, project-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI. BALRAM JAKHAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A Centrally Sponsored Schemes was approved during March, 1994 for introduction of Artificial Reefs (AR's) and Mariculture of pearl oysters, edible oysters, mussels, sea weeds etc. in the coastal waters. The total Central outlay for the scheme during the 8th Plan period is Rs. 500 lakh.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) No Statewise allocations are made and projects would be considered on the basis of the proposals submitted by the State Governments. During 1994-95, a sum of Rs.100 lakh has been earmarked as Central assistance for the introduction of AR's and Mariculture in the country.

[Translation]

#### **Ownership Rights and Occupied Forest Land**

\*360. SHRI BHERU LAL MEENA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the people living in tribal areas of Rajasthan and other States have been occupying forest land for the last 15 years and have converted it into cultivable land;

(b) if so, whether the Government have any plan to give ownership rights of this land to these tribals;

(c) if so, the time by which ownership rights, are likely to be given to them;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Government had decided in the past to give ownership rights to the cultivates on occupied forest land; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) some reports regarding encroachment of forest lands in tribal areas of some states including Rajasthan have been received. No proposal has been received from Rajasthan Government in this behalf.