

National Tree Growers Cooperative Federation

*144. SHRISHANTARAM POTDUKHE:
Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to promote and organise tree grower's cooperatives under National Tree Grower's Cooperative Federation;

(b) If so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of States where this project is operation; and

(d) the total area covered under this project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF WASTELANDS DEVELOPMENT) (COL. RAO RAM SINGH):

(a) and (b) The National Wastelands Development Board (NWDB) has been encouraging formation of Tree Grower's Cooperatives for creating self-sustaining village cooperatives that will work for the improvement of the marginally productive and unproductive degraded lands and establishment of fuelwood and fodder plantations. The National Tree Grower's Cooperative Federation (NTGCF) has made efforts in promoting and organising Tree Grower's Cooperative as sustainable and viable cooperative structure for establishing bio-mass on the degraded wastelands to meet primarily the fodder and fuelwood needs of villagers. The plantation of medicinal plants, installation of smokeless chulas and biogas plants, environmental education and enhancing women's participation through extension education are supporting programmes.

(c) The Tree Grower's Cooperative Project is in operation in following six States:-

(i) Andhra Pradesh

(ii) Gujrat

(iii) Karnataka

(iv) Orissa

(v) Rajasthan

(vi) Uttar Pradesh

(d) The total area covered under the project is 3,896 hectares as on 31st March, 1994.

SHRI SHANTARAM POTDUKHE:
Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has answered to part (c) of my question that the Tree Grower's Cooperative Project is in operation in the following six States - Andhra Pradesh, Gujrat, Karnataka, Orissa, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh. I would like to ask the the hon. Minister, when will other States be covered in the Cooperative Project and particularly, when will Maharashtra State be covered.

COL. RAO RAM SINGH: These cooperatives were started with a view to enhance the participation of the people in this task of re-greening the wastelands.

Initially, the National Tree Grower's Cooperative Federation was started with the help of the National Dairy Development Board and this was set-up as an apex body. In the initial phases, the NDDB created a corpus of Rs. 5 crore and then this work was started. Subsequently, the Swedish and the Canadian Governments gave some aid. The Swedish Government contributed approximately Rs. 2404 crore and

the Canadian Government contributed about Rs.46.00 crore. A joint MOU was signed and these six States were selected from the point of view of where the NDDB already had strong infrastructure of cooperative societies, and milk collection centers and where the quantum of wasteland was high. The work is going on there. As soon as we can arrange for some other funds, I can assure the hon. Member that we will definitely take up Maharashtra next on that programme.

SHRI SHANTARAM POTDUKHE: This project has come to help the village cooperatives in becoming self-sustaining. I would like to know from the hon. Minister what the area covered under the medicinal plants is and how many smokeless *chulas* have been given and what is the percentage of ladies participating in this programme.

MR. SPEAKER: As far as the statistics are concerned, the Minister may give them later on.

COL. RAO RAM SINGH: I can give the total area planted. The break-up, how much has been put under medicinal plants and other I will write to the hon. Member and inform him.

As far as the *chulas* are concerned, a total of about 5,138 *chulas* have been installed so far. As far bio-gas plants are concerned, 678, bio-gas plants have been installed. These are family plants — not community plants — catering to a family of six to seven persons.

MR. SPEAKER: How many ladies participating in the programme?

COL. RAO RAM SINGH: A total of 141 women's orientation camps have been held. The number of women trained in these

camps is 4,295 and I also wish to bring to the notice of the hon. Member that in some of the States, especially Rajasthan the work the women are doing in these cooperatives is of a highly commendable nature.

SHRI GOVINDA CHANDRA MUNDA: I am sorry to mention here, but the hon. Minister had mentioned Family Welfare. What is the population covered? He may let me know what is the welfare work achieved in Orissa? I would like to ask the Minister what is the family welfare work that is being done..(Interruptions)

COL. RAO RAM SINGH; This will require a separate notice.

SHRI GOVINDA CHANDRA MUNDA; That is a separate issue. He had mentioned Family Welfare.

[Translation]

COL. RAO RAM SINGH : Munda Saheb, you can meet me. I will let you know the whole picture.

[English]

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Sir, the hon. Minister has rightly pointed out that this programme is getting enough resources from other countries and the Government has already signed one MOU with Canada. So, I would like to know whether this programme is being monitored properly by the Ministry or not. There are certain complaints regarding the programme. I would also like to know whether this whole programme will be reviewed by the Ministry soon or not.

COL. RAO RAM SINGH: The proper system of monitoring and evaluation has been established. I myself have visited the

programme sites in two States viz., Rajasthan and Gujarat. I must inform the hon. Members that setting up a Co-operative Society is not that difficult. But getting the land from the State Governments for the Co-operative Society is an extremely tedious process where I believe as much as 27 channels are involved in getting revenue lands or other lands where this Co-operative can work. Initially, the programme is for five years in the case of Swedish project and six years in the case of Canadian project. But I am afraid that the utilisation has not been what I would like it to be. Therefore, probably, we will have to have the period extended because as I said the State Governments are gearing up. I am going to have a meeting of all the States involved in this so that land can be made available. The other State which is to be included is Tamil Nadu. But in Tamil Nadu, unfortunately, the co-operative laws are of such a nature that not a single Co-operative has been established so far.

SHRI YAIMA SINGH YUMNAM: Sir, the hon. Minister has just now said that there is difficulty in setting up of Co-operative Societies. It is a fact that there is difficulty in setting up of Societies in Manipur also. May I know from the hon. Minister whether these facilities can be made available to those associations, unions and other organisations which are registered under the Co-operative Societies' Act?

COL. RAO RAM SINGH : There are a number of schemes for the development of wastelands in the Department for the Societies to take up. It need not be necessarily under this programme. But if there is Registered Society and if there is land available, then the Society can make out a project and send it to the Department. There is a hundred percent funding for development of wastelands under that scheme.

SHRI A. CHARLES: Sir, the hon. Minister himself admitted that there is difficulty in getting sufficient lands for the implementation of the above project, In State like Kerala, the land is very scarce and it is very difficult to get land. However, plantation of medicinal plants is one of the projects being implemented under the scheme. May I know from the hon. Minister whether specific projects for plantation of medicinal plants are given by voluntary agencies and by the private sector? Those schemes will be accepted and all financial assistance will be given for implementation of those projects as a special case.

COL. RAO RAM SINGH: Sir, Kerala is doing extremely well in regard to the question of wasteland development. Recently I have started a special project of cashew plantation in Kerala. They have taken it up very well. I am going to start a special project for growing medicinal plants. That would be a special project and any society from Kerala or any other State can definitely come up and we will give full support for the plantation of medicinal plants. That can be any society. It need not be a Co-operative Society.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI (Saidpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has mentioned cooperative societies in his reply. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether there is a proposal to include some voluntary organisations, particularly women organisations recognised by the State Government, in this programme in addition to cooperative societies? I would also like to know the number of such cooperative societies in Uttar Pradesh which have been reaping the benefit of this scheme.

COL. RAO RAM SINGH: In addition to

this scheme, there is another scheme known as Grant-in-Aid scheme. Under this scheme, if women organisations, youth club and any other society registered with the State Government can make arrangement for barren land, they can apply for grant-in-aid. They would be given cent percent grant. As far as the number of societies working in Utter Pradesh is concerned, I will give its reply separately because it is not the part of original question.

[English]

SHRI HARISH NARAYAN PRABHU ZANTYE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know whether the Government is in the knowledge of the wasteland available in the country which is suitable for the tree-grower cooperatives. If so, what is the position as far as Goa is concerned and how much funds will be required if the Government is going to use all this land for plantations?

COL. RAO RAM SINGH : Sir, I presume, the hon. Member wants to know how much wasteland is there in Goa.

As far as the country is concerned, the total land mass in the country comprises of about 330 million hectares. The Department of Wasteland Development has commissioned the National Remote Sensing Agency to carry out a survey and they have already done mapping of, I think, two hundred and thirty seven districts through satellite, but they have not submitted their final report, However, according to some estimates, out of 330 million hectares, about 130 million hectares are considered to be degraded land or land not producing what it should produce. Out of these 130 million hectares, about 35 million hectares are forest wasteland and about 95 million hectares are non-forest wasteland. The forest wasteland is under the Ministry of

Environment and Forest and the non-forest wasteland is under the Department of Wasteland Development.

DR. R. MALLU: Sir, while thanking the Minister for including Andhra Pradesh in the scheme of foreign aid for tree cooperatives, I would like to know from him, how many cooperative societies are functioning in Andhra Pradesh and whether they are functioning well. If they are not functioning well, what steps are going to be taken by the Ministry.

COL. RAO RAM SINGH: Sir, thirty-five tree grower's cooperative societies in Chittoor and Cuddappah districts of Andhra Pradesh are fully operational and 27 have been further registered. The male membership of these 35 societies is 1,432... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member wants to know whether those societies are working well and, if not, what is going to be done.

COL. RAO RAM SINGH: Sir, If I understood correctly, there were two parts of the question - one, how many societies are working in Andhra Pradesh and, second whether they are performing well. So, the answer to the first part is that there are 35 societies which have been organised and which have 1,432 male members and 490 female members.

As far as work of the societies is concerned, there is a long report on it. Some are doing very well; some are doing marginally well and some are not doing well. I can send the detailed report of all the 35 societies to the hon. Member. I will send the detailed report to him.

SHRI VIJAYARAMA RAJU SATRUCHARLA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in Andhra Pradesh the tribals living in Srikakulam and Vijayanagram districts are habituated of doing *Podu* cultivation as a result of which they are annihilating the forests. The result of this is shortfall of rain. To divert them from that side, will the hon. Minister consider directing the Government of Andhra Pradesh to involve those tribals to form such societies and help them make fruit-bearing trees by forming these cooperatives?

COL. RAO RAM SINGH: Sir, I entirely agree with the hon. Minister that there is large scale destruction of forest that is going on. I think both the Ministry of Environment and Forest and the Ministry of Rural Development are doing their best to stop this destructions of forest on a large scale. In the North East also we are doing our best to stop the practice of jhuming. As far as this particular scheme is concerned, I would like to inform the hon. Member that in Andhra Pradesh this scheme is restricted at present only to the districts of Chittoor and Cuddapah and the coastal districts, which the hon. Member mentioned just now, have not been covered under this. I would direct the National Tree Grower's Cooperative Society to go into the question of establishing societies in the districts mentioned by the hon. Member. At present we have no societies under this scheme in that area.

SHRI P. C. THOMAS: Sir, regarding paper-pulp producing trees, there is quite a lot of encouragement given by the Kerala Government. But the encouragement given is mainly used by the Government agencies themselves. If we are able to produce more these trees we are sure that the main units of the Hindustan Paper Corporation - which are all functioning at a loss - can come to profit if more of these trees come up and if

the tree produces are available at a low cost.

I would like to know whether in the State of Kerala where the growth of this tree is coming up to a very high extent, these cooperatives can be encouraged and whether you can think of bringing the State of Kerala also under this programme.

COL. RAO RAM SINGH: Sir, as far as the question of pulp produce is concerned, I entirely agree with the hon. Member that it is very poor in our country and the Department has made a specific scheme for this known as 'Investment Promotion Scheme' which is aimed at corporate sector and for those units of the corporate sector which use forest produce as their raw material. For example the paper factories require pulp. It is also true in the case of match factories and pencil factories etc. This scheme is aimed at them so that they become self-sufficient in their own requirements for raw material for the next 25-30-40 years. The main hitch again is availability of land from the State Governments. Maharashtra has taken a lead in it and they have relaxed the ceiling for these schemes. In the corporate sector, the Department gives a subsidy of 25 per cent sector while in other cases where societies are concerned, 100 percent aid is given. But in this case only 25 percent aid, 50 percent seed money is put in by the corporate sector.

But again, as I said, the main hitch is availability of land on a long-term basis from the State Governments for which I have had a number of meetings with the representatives of the State Governments and of the corporate sector.

I think we will hopefully achieve a breakthrough in this where these corporate sector units will set up their own captive

plantations for their own use and they will not have to cut the forest for their use.

[English]

[Translation]

SHRI KRISHAN DUTT SULTANPURI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the honourable Minister whether the Government propose to undertake tree plantation in Government forests through any society? The second thing is that due to deforestation on large scale a large part of the land has become barren in Himachal Pradesh. Same is the case in Garhwal and Arunachal Pradesh. I would like to know whether the Government propose to launch any scheme for areas so that the barren land could be made fertile? Will the Union Government issue directives to the State Government for taking action in regard to plantation in such land?

COL. RAO RAM SINGH: The Union Government can not issue any directives to State Government to allot the land. It is a subject which comes under the jurisdiction of the State Government. The State Government is also interested in its development. A new concept which has been visualised in regard to wasteland development is known as watershed concept. Earlier, the land used to be developed in piecemeal. However due to the flowing of silt during rainy season, this land used to be washed away. As per the new concept, in hilly areas, valley treatment work will be undertaken. In upper areas, trees will be planted and in the valley area, the land will be treated. If there is any such area in Himachal Pradesh and you intend to start work under this concept, you may come out with a project and send it through the District Commissioner or any private society. Himachal Pradesh will be given top priority in such cases and it will be done.

PROF. P. J. KURIEN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, some of the paper manufacturing units in the country are depending on forest for their raw materials. In this connection, it is very important that we should allow these paper manufacturing units to have captive plantations. What is the policy of the Government regarding captive plantations? I understand that some applications for captive plantations are pending with the Government. When we have wasteland and also the forest land without any tree, what is the harm in allowing captive plantations especially eucalyptus in Kerala so that their depending on forest is minimised?

COL. RAO RAM SINGH: Sir, in fact I have already answered this question of the hon. Member. We are encouraging captive plantations for those corporate sector units who have forest produce as their raw material. Paper is the major one and not only some of the paper manufacturing units, but all the paper manufacturing units are the reserved forests and other forests for cutting down for their pulp requirements. We are encouraging captive plantations so that their requirement for the next 50 years is met. But, again as I said, the difficulty that is being experienced at the moment is the availability of land from the State Governments. At present, there is the problem of land ceiling. If a paper manufacturing unit is to plant poplar, eucalyptus or any of the pulp producing trees, they would require probably 500 hectares so that their requirement for the next 50 years is met. So, here the question of ceiling comes in. Then it is a very long drawn out process for the trees to be grown fully. It will take 10 to 20 years for the trees to grow. The corporate sector wants the lease to be for 25 or 50 years, while the State Government wants the lease

to be of a short duration.

These are the two major difficulties. I would appeal to the hon. Member to take up this matter in their own States. If we can help and encourage this, I think the farmer will benefit greatly as in Andhra Pradesh where the Indian Tobacco Company have a buyback agreement with the farmers for tobacco. They provide all the inputs.

The Hon. Prime Minister has desired that tobacco cultivation should be curtailed. But what is happening so far is that some of the corporate sector units have been encouraging the tobacco growers by providing them with technical know-how, finances and buyback agreements. Similarly, if buyback agreements could be arranged with farmers, these paper units could plant eucalyptus tree or other pulp bearing trees and have buyback agreements with them. The Western India Match Company, has got this arrangement with certain farmers in U.P. where they are planting poplar and they have buyback agreement with the farmers for their match factories. This is a concept which we are encouraging.

DR. B.G.JAWALI: The hon. Minister has said that land is not available for implementation of the tree growing programme and similar difficulty was expressed by the Ministry of Forests also. I would like to know from the hon. Minister what is the reason for non-availability of land. As I know, particularly in the State of Karnataka, there is lot of unauthorised cultivation of both the Government lands and the forest lands and thus subsequently Government have legalised and given them ownership rights. Not only that That have even gone to the extent of cultivating small hills and mountains where not an inch or

a pair of grass is grown. It has been virtually like permitting and encouraging the people to go over there and have unauthorised cultivation. Is this the factor which is causing non-availability of land? If so, has the Government any plan to check this illegal cultivation?

COL. RAO RAM SINGH: Actually, there is no shortage of land. Wasteland is available in abundance. It is the procedures which have got to be sorted out. Out of the 95 million hectares of non-forest wasteland, 60 per cent to 65 per cent is privately-owned wasteland and only 35 per cent to 40 per cent is community land, panchayat land or land belonging to Revenue Departments. It requires considerable effort to get together private land-owners who own two or three acres of wasteland. We are having a number of meetings with voluntary organisations, the State Government, nodal agencies and with the corporate sector in order to find ways and means how the land which is lying fallow can be made available to the implementing agencies. These procedures are being worked out.

DR. B.G.JAWALI: The question was about unauthorised cultivation and the regularisation thereof.

COL. RAO RAM SINGH: What is unauthorised cultivation?

DR. B.G.JAWALI: The Government land is begin cultivated by the common man or by an agriculturist and regularising it.

COL. RAO RAM SINGH: If it is cultivated land, then the Ministry of Agriculture is concerned. If it is already cultivated and if it is productive land, it will be the State Government which will see whether it is under unauthorised occupation.

DR. VASANT NIWRUTTI PAWAR: Mr Speaker, Sir, National Wasteland Development Board is encouraging the formation of self-sustained village cooperatives. The hon. Minister has said that it is very difficult to get wasteland from the State Governments. If a village is situated near the military wasteland, will the hon. Minister take pains to give that military wasteland for development?

MR. SPEAKER: That is for the Defence Ministry to reply. He may be having a defence background but he is not authorised to reply...*(Interruptions)*

DR. VASANT NIWRUTTI PAWAR : They are having a project.

COL. RAO RAM SINGH : In his constituency, I have got a project.

MR. SPEAKER: Are you authorised to give the defence land?

COL. RAO RAM SINGH: The defence land is being given to non-governmental organisations for development. The land will remain with the Army. We cannot take the land. But it is being developed.

[Translation]

SHRI AYUB KHAN (JHUNJHUNU): Mr. Speaker, Sir, you know that a large part of Rajasthan is a desert. There is no dearth of wasteland. Will the hon. Minister be pleased to state the number of agencies functioning under this scheme in Rajasthan and the amount alongwith the area proposed to be covered?

Mr. Speaker: You may send it in writing later on.

[English]

These are specific questions. You may send it in writing.

[Translation]

SHRI HARCHAND SINGH (ROPAR): Mr, Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has stated that the forest land is being allotted to the cooperative societies. In Haryana, Harijan Cooperative Societies have been set up. Has any of them been allotted such land?

COL. RAO RAM SINGH: Our Department is not allotting the forest land to any cooperative society-whether it be Harijan or non-Harijan society. So far as allotment of land under Forest Act is concerned, the Act is required to be amended.

[English]

SHRI M.KRISHNASWAMY: The hon. Minister has stated that under this scheme, there is no society in Tamil Nadu and Tamil Nadu Cooperative Societies Act is not suitable for the formation of the society. I would like to know whether the Central Government has brought it to the notice of the State Government to suitably amend the Cooperative Societies Act to have the societies under this programme.

COL. RAO RAM SINGH : The Department is on this job. We have been trying our very best to ask the Tamil Nadu Government to suitably amend their Cooperative Acts. Thus far, I am sorry to say that we have not succeeded. But we will keep on trying. In the meanwhile, the SIDA are very restive who are funding this project. They say, "if that does not come through, they will divert the fund to one of the other States." I would appeal to the Members from Tamil

Nadu to get this Act amended otherwise that fund will have to be diverted.

[*Translation*]

SHRI LAKSHAMAN SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Madhya Pradesh has not been covered under this scheme. Will the Government also include Madhya Pradesh under this scheme? The second thing which I would like to know is that 3896 hectare land in six States has been covered under this scheme whereas in Rajgarh district of Madhya Pradesh, about one thousand acre of land is wasteland. Will Madhya Pradesh, particularly Rajgarh district be covered under this scheme.

[*English*]

COL. RAO RAM SINGH: The quantum of wasteland is very high in Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh. Therefore, as soon as some funds are available from somewhere, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh will be included in this programme.

SHRI PETER G. MARBANIANG: We have seen that six States are prominently listed in the reply to question 'c'. Now we know that in the North-East, Government have identified many areas as a wasteland areas which the National Wasteland Development Board can utilise.

Is it a fact that the salient features of this scheme are not known to the State Governments in the northeast? I would like to know from the hon. Minister the reasons why no facility of this scheme has been extended to the northeastern States.

COL. RAO RAM SINGH: This is only one of the many schemes that the Department is implementing. Although under this scheme the northeastern States are not

included, yet in the northeastern States we have special programmes for rubber plantation, tea plantation in nonconventional tea growing areas and there are a number of other on-going projects in the northeastern States. If there is any particular area like Shillong or somewhere else for which hon. Member would like to submit a proposal for development of waste land, we will welcome it and I assure that the project will be processed at the earliest.

[*Translation*]

Sick Public Sector Undertakings

145. SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR:
SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have not yet finalised the revival reports of different sick Public Sector Undertakings whose cases have been pending before BIFR;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether these Undertakings have sufficient potential for improvement if given proper backup; and

(d) if so, the facts thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF HEAVY INDUSTRY) (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) to (d) The sick Public Sector Undertakings have been registered with BIFR. BIFR have appointed operating agency in respect of these registered PSUs for formulation of revival/