

(c) whether the Government propose to enhance the allocation of water from Yamuna river to Rajasthan for drinking purpose; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU) : (a) and (b) Rajasthan, represented by a Member in Upper Yamuna River Board (YRB), has demanded supply of their share of water from Yamuna river including drinking water as per Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) dated 12.05.1994 between Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh and National Capital Territory of Delhi.

The Upper Yamuna River Board constituted by a resolution of Government of India on 11.03.1995 has distributed Yamuna waters since 22.04.1995 to Rajasthan as below :-

Period	Share as per MOU (BCM)	(cusec)	Actual allocation made by UYRB (cusec)
March-	0.086	288	100 from 23.4.1995 to 15.5.1995
June, 95			290 from 16.5.1995 to 30.6.1995
July-	0.963	3202	350
Oct., 95			
Nov., 95-	0.070	238	238
Feb., 96			
March -	0.086	288	288
June, 96			

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Women in environmental programmes

1466. PROF. SAVITHRI LAKSHMANAN : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether women have a significant role in the environmental protection;

(b) if so, the details of the specific guidelines and schemes drawn up by the Government in this regard; and

(c) the financial assistance provided by the Union Government to the State Governments for this purpose during each of the last three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF

ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT) : (a) to (c) Women have a significant role in the environmental protection. The National Conservation Strategy and Policy Statement on Environment and Development (NCS) issued by the Ministry of Environment and Forests in June, 1992, and the National Forest Policy 1988 emphasise the role of women in various environmental matters. The NSCP recommends active involvement of women at the grassroot level in the conservation programmes, which should be income generating, self-financing and sustainable. The National Forest Policy aims at creating a massive peoples' movement for afforestation with the involvement of women.

These policy enunciations are integrated in the programmes of the Ministry. These programmes include afforestation programmes, environmental awareness generation programmes and other programmes. The role and achievements of women and women's organisations are duly recognised by the Ministry and following women/women's organisations have been given Indira Priyadarshini Vrikshamitra (IPVM) Awards in recognition of their outstanding work in afforestation :-

Sl.No.	Name	Year of Award
1.	Smt. Sugatha Kumari, Trivandrum, Kerala	1986
2.	Mahila Mangal Dals of Chamoli, Uttar Pradesh	1986
3.	Mahila Mandals of Mahi, Goykarwadi, Patewadi, Bavi, Khandvi, Jawalke, Halgaon and Jalgaon, Ahmednagar, (Maharashtra)	1987
4.	Chandrapur Girls High School (Primary Unit), South Tripura	1991
5.	Irula Tribal Women's Welfare Society, Chingleput, Tamil Nadu	1992
6.	Women Sangams' of the Deccan Development Society, Medak, Andhra Pradesh	1993

Voluntary Organisations

1467. DR. K.V.R. CHOWDARY : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the health schemes involving participating of charitable or voluntary organisations in operation at present in the country, state-wise;

(b) the budgetary provisions and actual amount spent on each scheme during each of the last three years, state-wise; and

(c) the method of monitoring and the implementation of these schemes?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Incidence of contract

1468. SHRI PARAS RAM BHARDWAJ : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the incidence of cataract is increasing in the country despite the claims of reduction during the last two years;

(b) whether the Government propose to start efforts on warfooting to contain the disease by involving voluntary organisations; and

(c) if so, the details of the action plan and the role of the voluntary organisations in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY) : (a) No recent survey has been undertaken.

(b) The Government has already started in 1994, World Bank Assisted Cataract Blindness Control Project in some major States, namely U.P., M.P., Maharashtra, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, and Andhra Pradesh, which accounts for 2/3rd total prevalence of cataract in India. These States would perform over 11 million sight restoration surgeries during the 7 year project. In addition pilot projects in Karnataka and J&K have also been launched. Pattern of assistance has been revised in all States. Distt. Blindness Control Societies alongwith other voluntary organisations have been involved in this project.

(c) Action Plan to contain incidence of cataract include:

- (i) Strengthening service delivery.
- (ii) Developing human resources for eye care.
- (iii) Promoting outreach activities and public awareness, and
- (iv) Developing institutional capacity.

Role envisaged for voluntary organisations include :

- (a) Service delivery through camps;
- (b) Screening and outreach activities;
- (c) Expansion of service delivery by selected non-profit institutions in underserved areas.

Forest Cover

1469. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT :

SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE :

Will the Minister of environment and forests be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the forest cover in the country at the beginning of 1980, State-wise;

(b) the position at the end of 1995;

(c) the reasons for reduction in the coverage, if any; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT) : (a) and (b) On the basis of the State of Forest Reports 1987 and 1993 published by the Forest Survey of India for the assessment period 1981-83 and 1989-91 respectively, the State-wise actual Forest cover is given in the enclosed statement.

(c) The main reason for the reduction in the coverage can be attributed to wide gap in demand and supply of fuelwood, fodder and small timber, damage due to sniffting cultivation, forest fires and grazing and also due to diversion of forest land for non-forest purposes.

(d) The various steps taken by the Government to increase the forest cover are :

- (i) Guidelines have been issued to all the State/ Union Territories Government to involve the village community in the protection and regeneration of forest through a mechanism of usufruct sharing and benefit distribution.
- (ii) Steps have been undertaken to substantially increase the coverage through afforestation/ tree planting activities during the eighth five year plan.
- (iii) All the State/U.T. Governments have been requested to implement the recommendations of the Policy Advisory Groups on wood substitution and fuelwood conservation.
- (iv) Financial assistance is being provided to the States/U.Ts. for rehabilitation of degraded forest through involvement of tribals and rural poor and also for control of forest fires.
- (v) Forest (conservation) Act, 1980 has been enacted to prevent the diversion of forest lands for non-forestry purposes without prior approval of the Central Government.