

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) to (c). Suggestions from industry associations and environmentalists regarding amendments to provisions relating to sampling, penalties, offences by the companies, cognizance of offences and effect of other laws on the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 have been received. The suggestions have been sent to the State Governments for their views.

[English]

Railway Projects in Tamil Nadu

4827. SHRI N. DENNIS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated/prepared new projects for railway services including new railway lines to be developed in the State of Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the funds allocated for this purpose during Eighth Plan, Project-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALIKARJUN): (a) and (b). No new railway line is proposed to be taken up in the State of Tamil Nadu at present. However, gauge conversion of Madurai-Maniyachchi-Tuticorin is likely to be completed in 92-93. Gauge conversion work has also been taken up on Madras-Dindigul section and is planned for completion within the Eighth Five Year Plan, subject to availability of resources.

(c) Madurai-Maniyachchi-Tuticorin gauge conversion- Rs. 69 Crores Madras-Dindigul gauge conversion Rs. 256 crs.

Social Forestry Programme

4828. SHRIANANDRATNA MAURYA:
SHRI S. B. SIDNAL :

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the targets fixed under social forestry programmes during each of the last three years have been achieved;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) the amount spent thereon during each of the last three years, State-wise; and

(d) the steps taken to provide a further fillip to the programmes?

THE MINISTER STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) to (c). The State-wise targets and achievements as well as utilisation of funds on afforestation/ tree planting activities, including Social forestry, under the twenty Point Programme during the last 3 years is given in statement I and statement II respectively.

(d) It is proposed to expand the coverage of the programme during the Eighth Five Year Plan subject to availability of funds in the Central and State Plans. With a view to improve performance, the State Governments and the administration of Union Territories have been advised to strengthen the monitoring and evaluation mechanism as well as to compile location-wise details of the afforestation and tree planting activities and share this information widely with people's representatives and the public. Sample checking of the actual plantation work is also being conducted in selected districts through independent agencies/experts.

In order to increase the effectiveness of