

MR. SPEAKER: There is no point of order in Question Hour. Everything is a point of information during Question Hour. You please sit down.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise on a point of order...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: There is no point of order in Question Hour. We will see....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER Members are not expected to glance at the Gallery.

Afforestation Programme

187. SHRIMATI DIPIKA H. TOPIWALA
SHRIMATI MAHENDRA KUMARI

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT

AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Swedish International Development Authority has proposed a scheme to promote growth of trees in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof,

(c) the States where the scheme is likely to be launched; and

(d) the incentives proposed to be given to the tree growers under the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) to (d). The details of the on-going Social Forestry projects and the proposed Tree Growers' Cooperatives Project with the support of Swedish International Development Authority (SIDA) are given in the Statement I laid on the Table of the House.

Details of the assistance, including incentives, to be provided to the Tree growers under the proposed Tree Growers' Cooperatives Project are also given in the Statement II laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT - I

SIDA-Assisted Forestry Projects:

Sr.No	Name of the Project	Project Area	Project cost (Rs. in crores)	Project period
1	2	3	4	5
On-going Projects.				
1.	Bihar Social Forestry Project Phase - II	Bihar (Chhota Nagpur Santhal Pargana).	63.85	1985 86 to 1991 92
2.	Orissa Social Forestry Project Phase - II	Orissa	78 34	1988-89 to 1992-93

Sr.No.	Name of the Project	Project Area	Project cost (Rs. in crores)	Project period
1	2	3	4	5
3.	Tamil Nadu Social Forestry Project Phase - II.	Tamil Nadu	85.40	1988-89 to 1992-93
	In Pipeline:			
4.	Integrated Wastelands Development Project	Rajasthan (Dungarpur District)	28.14	—
5.	Tree Growers' Cooperative Project.	Orissa, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu.	24.47	—

Under negotiation. To be implemented through National Dairy Development Board (NDDB)

STATEMENT - II

Assistance, Including Incentives, to Tree Growers' Under the Proposed Tree Growers' Cooperatives Project

The Tree Growers' Cooperatives Project (TGCP) for which assistance is being sought from SIDA is presently under negotiation with the SIDA authorities. The project is to be implemented in Orissa, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu. In each State, 100 Tree Growers' Cooperative Societies will be set up. Taken all together, it is proposed to have 29,000 members of the cooperative societies and to cover 4430 hectares of private lands and 5250 hectares of common lands.

The project will assist the private tree growers mainly as given below:

- (i) Supply of seeds and essential inputs for raising appropriate species.
- (ii) Technical advice and guidance on planting methods, soil and water conservation, harvesting techniques

and other such assistance as may be needed to obtain economic returns from tree/grass cultivation.

- (iii) Organise procurement and marketing of fodder and tree produce.
- (iv) Use of energy-saving devices such as smokeless chullahs, bio-gas plants, solar and wind energy systems.

SHRIMATI DIPIKA H. TOPIWALA: I would like to know from the hon. Minister what are the terms and conditions under which financial assistance is provided to India by the Swedish International Development Authority for the afforestation programme.

SHRI KAMAL NATH: The Tree Growers' Cooperative Project for which assistance is being sought from SIDA envisages a total cost of Rs. 24.47 crores and is to be implemented in three States in Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Orissa. The proposed Project period is five years. In each 100 Tree

Growers' Cooperative Societies will be formed. Taken together there shall be 29,000 members of the cooperative societies and this shall cover 4430 hectares of private lands and 5250 hectares of common lands.

The scheme envisages that 75 per cent of the project cost of 24 and odd crores which I said, will be imported in the shape of edible oil by the NDDB. This shall be monetised. The project will be funded from the funds that become available from this monetization.

SHRIMATI DIPIKA H. TOPIWALA: I would like to know whether the Government are receiving assistance for the purpose of growth of trees from some other countries also and if so, the names of such countries and the amount of such assistance received during 1991 and 1992 and out of this amount how much has been spent in Gujarat.

SHRI KAMAL NATH: There are certain projects which are being discussed and the forestry projects posed for external assistance are in West Bengal, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Orissa.

SHRIMATI DIPIKA H. TOPIWALA: What about Gujarat?

AN. HON. MEMBER: She has asked about Gujarat.

SHRI KAMAL NATH: She has asked me for any other projects also and I am responding to any other projects.

MR. SPEAKER: And you will respond to her question!

SHRI KAMAL NATH: I am only responding to her and nobody else. There are commitments for projects in Himachal Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan. These are the other indicated projects. If the hon. Members want to know any other information I will be willing to give her.

MR. SPEAKER: You can send it to her in writing.

SHRI KAMAL NATH: I will send it to her.

SHRIMATI MAHENDRA KUMARI: In view of the acute water shortage in Rajasthan what are the measures that have been taken for the growth of trees and the safeguards from the dry climate and water shortage?

SHRI KAMAL NATH: Various forestry programmes are being implemented in Rajasthan and certainly these projects will lead to the improvement in the water table situation.

As I said in my earlier answer, the Tree Growers' Cooperatives and the NDDB is going to be a major project which shall encompass the State of Rajasthan also.

Effort has been made to involve communities and community villages themselves. Community participation is one of the main thrusts of the policy programme and we do hope that with the current projects which are under way in Rajasthan there shall be some improvement in the water table.

[Translation]

SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Sir, why this programme is being implemented through the National Dairy Development Board? There is a State Government there, why is it that not doing it? Why should the National Dairy Development Board do the forestry job? They are doing a big business. Why is the job not assigned to the Forest Department?

[English]

SHRI KAMAL NATH: Sir, the National Dairy Development Board has, even without this SIDA assisted project, been carrying out tree growing activities and tree planting activities. The reason for this is that the sustainability of these programmes gets ensured by NDDB, who are able to procure the produce from the farmers. It is not merely a question of planting a tree and guarding a tree. It is a question of being able to procure from the farmers their produce from the trees.

through a network of Co-operative Societies. This gives an element of sustainability, which has been one of the problems in afforestation.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI GIRIJA DEVI Mr Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has stated in his reply that Bihar has been included in the scheme for which he deserves to be thanked but he has included only Chhota Nagpur while there is an important forest area in Bihar and that is East and West Champaran, in close vicinity of Tarai region of Himalaya. Trees are also cut down there indiscriminately by Nepalese people in a surreptitious manner converting the forests into denudation. It causes environmental degradation giving rise to floods in the North Bihar which ruin it to a great extent. The first part of my question is - why has he not included the East and West Champaran districts of Bihar in the scheme? Secondly, he has stated in his statement that several societies

MR SPEAKER Please come to the question.

SHRIMATI GIRIJA DEVI Mr Speaker, Sir, I have asked clearly why has it not been included? The second question is when he gets his work done by many societies, how much expenditure is incurred on those societies? How much expenditure is incurred on the Government establishment officers, cars, petrol?

[English]

MR SPEAKER You can reply to the first part of her question.

[Translation]

SHRI KAMAL NATH As far as the second part of the question is concerned, I cannot give a reply to that question but I would like to tell the hon. Member through you that a project worth Rs. 50 crore has been posed with France for North and South Bihar. We are awaiting the response from

France. As far as the question of the expenses is concerned, all the schemes are implemented by the Forest Department of the State Government. So I cannot give the answer to this question.

[English]

KUMARI SELJA May I know from the hon. Minister, if the Government has any plans to involve women and women's organisation under this scheme? If so, would the Minister be kind enough to give the details?

SHRI KAMAL NATH Sir, this question itself has been posed by two honourable women of this House.

MR SPEAKER My suggestion is that when the plants are tender they should be looked after by them.

SHRI KAMAL NATH Of course, it is our effort to involve women.

SHRI KAMAL NATH There are several schemes for involving women. We have the People's Nursery Scheme etc. and we have seen that some of the most successful programmes have been the programmes implemented by women. Our effort is to involve as many women as possible and all programmes involving larger number of women will be given preference.

[Translation]

SHRI BHERU LAL MEENA My point is that the forest department takes care of the plants for five years which it plants under afforestation programme. It does not take care of these plants after five years. These forests are denudated again. (Interruptions)

MR SPEAKER The basic question is that from where will we get foreign money for afforestation and how will it be utilized?

SHRI BHERU LAL MEENA The substance is that the forest should be protected and more area should be brought under

forest cover. That is why I am saying that the forest department does not care for the forests. It stops to protect and take care of the forests after five years as a result deforestation takes place again. You please understand my point and do not take it lightly.

MR. SPEAKER: Members, Not I, are not taking it seriously. I am giving you time to ask your question

SHRIBHERU LAL MEENA: Forests are protected by raising fencing round them. When the trees grow up, they are left unprotected and unpreserved. After sometime they are destroyed. Afforestation takes place again. Thus does the Government really intend to preserve the forest? (*Interruptions*)... Village people say that the forests should not be cut down. They are ready to cooperate so far as the conservation of the forest is concerned. (*Interruptions*) ..

MR. SPEAKER: Please, utilize the given time and ask the question related to original question. Don't ask irrelevant questions. You please come to the question. Not this way. You have not read the question.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRIBHERU LAL MEENA: This is my question. Now as you wish.

(*English*)

New Text Books

188. SHRI DATTATRAYA BANDARU:
SHRI ANNA JOSHI:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the subjects on which new text books have not yet been introduced in accordance with the revised curricula and syllabus after the adoption of the National Policy on Education, 1986;

(b) the reasons for not introducing these

books till now; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH) (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the table of the Sabha

STATEMENT

Keeping in view the postulates of the National Policy on Education, 1986, the National Curricular Framework developed by the NCERT has recommended a scheme of studies for School Education. According to the scheme the NCERT has developed text books on all subjects except for Environmental Studies for Classes I and II for subjects of Work Experience, Art Education and Health and Physical Education for various stages. The Framework suggests that the major thrust of Environmental Studies in Classes I and II should not be to impart information to the children, but to sharpen their senses, to encourage them to observe and explore their environment. Work Experience, Art Education and Health and Physical Education are activity-oriented educational programmes. Since the activities are to be based on the local environment and are linked with creative expression of the learners, prescription of text books in these curricular areas has not been recommended by the NCERT.

2. In regard to College/University level, there is no centralised system of production of text books. Each University is academically autonomous and prescribes its own courses of study. However, the University Grants Commission has a scheme of restructuring of courses with a view to making the first degree