

(e) the details of the major projects proposed to be started in the country in collaboration with USSR ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI KHURSHEED ALAM KHAN) : (a) to (e). There are several proposals under examination to expand industrial collaboration with the Soviet Union to mutual benefit. The details are still being worked out.

Effect of Eucalyptus Plantation on Soil

5776. SHRI K. PRADHANI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the total hectares of land in arid zones brought under eucalyptus plantation during the Sixth Plan period;

(b) whether a recent study has revealed that further plantation of eucalyptus will convert the soil into deserts and spread over the sub-continent;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken to stop the plantation of eucalyptus in the arid zones ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI VIR SEN) : (a) The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

(b) No study has been made which reveals that further plantation of Eucalyptus will convert the soil into deserts and spread over the sub-continent.

(c) and (d). The questions do not arise.

Request by Maharashtra Government for More Money to Develop Bombay

5777. SHRI MUKUL WASNIK :
SHRI D.B. PATIL :
SHRI BANWARI LAL
PUROHIT :
SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE
PATIL :

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state :

(a) whether to develop Bombay and to

meet the needs of thousands of people coming to the city from various parts of the country the Government of Maharashtra have made a request for a sum of Rs. 1,000 crores for the coming five years from the Union Government;

(b) if so, whether the request has been considered;

(c) if so, the total amount approved; and

(d) if not, the reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI K.R. NARAYANAN) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) to (d). The Seventh Plan of Maharashtra is still to be finalised. It may however be noted that Central assistance for the Plans of States is provided on the basis of the modified Gadgil Formula approved by the National Development Council for the States Plans as a whole in the form of block loans and grants and not for specific project/programmes.

Fake Passport Issued by the Regional Passport Offices

5778. SHRI G.G. SWELL :
SHRI CHITTA MAHATA :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large number of workers were sent to Gulf countries by travelling agencies on the strength of fake passports issued by the Regional Passport Offices;

(b) whether the matter has been taken up with the Ministry of External Affairs; and

(c) if so, with what results ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI KHURSHEED ALAM KHAN) : (a) No, Sir. No cases have come to the notice of the Government, where any worker was sent to Gulf countries by travelling agencies on the strength of fake passports issued by the Regional Passport Offices.