

— collaboration with voluntary bodies/non-governmental organisations.

Implementation of the Action Plan has been taken up and several steps have been initiated already. The nodal agency is the Central Directorate of Wildlife Preservation and the Wildlife Institute of India with the active help of the State/Union Territory Governments and the cooperation of voluntary bodies and other national and international agencies.

The Action Plan has been made the central theme of the wildlife conservation programmes for the *Seventh Five Year Plan* (1985-90).

2. The Department of Environment has taken several measures for environmental conservation and protection. Environmental Research Committee and Man and Biosphere Committee in the Department of Environment have commissioned research programmes in priority areas for promoting environmental protection and maintaining ecological balance. Several programmes are focussed on pollution monitoring and control. Central Board for prevention and Control of Water Pollution and state Boards for Prevention and Control of Water Pollution have been set up. These Boards are acting as regulatory agencies for controlling pollution from industrial effluents and emissions. A particular mention may be made of the recently constituted Central Ganga Authority. A network of biosphere reserves has been planned for conserving biological diversity in representative bio-geographic regions of the country. Eco-Development programmes are being taken up in critically degraded or fragile ecosystems for demonstrating restorative protective methodologies. Programmes of environmental education, training and awareness have been launched to promote environmental consciousness among various sections of society. Advanced centres of studies in disciplines relevant to environmental management have been planned. A particular mention may be made of the proposed Institute of Himalayan Environment and Development. Programmes for environmental management are being intensified in the Seventh Plan.

Estimates of Loss of Forests due to use of Firewood

1256. SHRI V.S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether any estimate has been made as to the loss of forest as a result of the use of firewood in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any effort is being made to popularise other forms of fuel; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FOREST (SHRI BIR SEN) : (a) and (b). No accurate estimate of the exact of loss is available.

(a) and (d). The Government has laid great stress on promotion of biogas plants in the country. A National Project for Biogas Development was launched as a Central Sector Scheme in 1981-82. The target for 1,50,000 plants has been set up for 1984-85 against which 1,17,820 plants have been set up upto February, 1985. In case of community biogas plants the full capital cost and cost of operation for one year given. In case of institutional biogas plants subsidies ranging from 33½% to 75% is given.

Changes in Service Rules of Officers of I.A.S. and I.P.S. Cadres

1257. KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have any proposal to bring about change in the service rules of the officers belonging to IAS and IPS cadres; and

(b) if so, what are the changes proposed ?