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| 50. | 7.5.85. | The Motor Vehicles (West Bengal Amendment) Bill, 1985 | Under examination in consultation with the Administrative Ministries/ Departments concerned. |
| 51. | 19.6.85 | The Code of Criminal Procedure (West Bengal Amendment) Bill, 1985 | Pending with the State Government since 3.9.85. |
| 52. | 8.10.85 | The West Bengal Religious Buildings and Places Bill, 1985 | Under examination in consultation with the administrative Ministries Departments concerned. |
| 53. | 22.10.85 | The Mahesh Bhattacharya Medical College and Hospital (Taking over of Management and Subsequent Acquisition) Bill, 1985 | Under examination in consultation with the administrative Ministries/ Departments concerned. |
| 54. | 22.10.85 | The Code of Criminal Procedure (West Bengal Third Amendment) Bill, 1985 | Under examination in consultation with the administrative Ministries/ Departments concerned. |
| 55. | 22.10.85 | The Official Trustees (West Bengal Amendment) Bill, 1985 | Under examination in consultation with the administrative Ministries/ Departments concerned. |

Functions of National Wasteland Board

3496. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PAT-
NAIK : Will the PRIME MINISTER
be pleased to state :

(a) the main purpose and functions
of the National Waste Land Board;

(b) the works undertaken by the
National Waste Land Board since its
establishment; and

(c) the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND
FORESTS (SHRI Y.R. ANSARI) : (a)
to (c). The main purpose and functions of
the National Wastelands Development
Board are (i) to coordinate and catalyse
programmes which would enable the coun-
try to achieve a target of planting 5
million hectares a year; (ii) to increase
tree and other green cover on wastelands;
(iii) to develop a people's movement for
afforestation; and (iv) to fulfil fuelwood
and fodder needs of the people.

2. To achieve these objectives, the
States have been asked, *inter alia*, to
identify wastelands, set up new nurseries
in the people's sector, provide tree patta
to the landless and other rural poor,
involve voluntary agencies and other non-
government organisations and intensify
efforts on extension and training.

3. A Pilot Project for setting up of
Tree Growers Cooperative Societies has
been drawn up which would be imple-
mented by the National Dairy Develop-
ment Board in the initial stages.

4. As against an achievement of 1.26
Million hectares in 1984-85, the States
have been requested to step up the target
to 3.25 million hectares for 1986-87
through funds in the forest, rural develop-
ment and soil conservation budgets.

Achievement and Expenditure on Antarctica Programme

3497. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MAN-
DAL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be
pleased to state :

(a) the total expenditure so far on the Antarctica Programme and the results achieved therefrom;

(b) the amount allocated for Antarctica Programme during the Seventh Five Year Plan (1985-90) and the results expected to be achieved therefrom; and

(c) how the results from experiments from various types of explorations conducted by the previous expeditions and data collected by them have been utilised, industrially, logistically ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL) : (a) The total expenditure so far on the Antarctic Programme is approximately Rs. 15.75 crores. During these expeditions, India established a permanently manned station at Dakshin Gangotri which provides the basic infrastructure facilities for continuing the scientific research programmes in Antarctica. As a result of scientific work carried out by India, the country has gained the status of a Consultative Party to the Antarctic Treaty and has been admitted as a full member to the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research.

(b) The amount allocated for the Antarctic Programme during the Seventh Five Year Plan is Rs. 45 crores. During the next five year, it is proposed to cover larger and larger areas of Antarctica and establish additional stations and continue scientific work in the identified thrust areas of geology, biology and meteorology.

(c) it is too early to apply the data collected from Antarctic Expeditions for industrial application. On the logistic side, the data collected from Antarctica have been useful and these have been utilised in planning future expeditions.

Social Forestry in West Bengal

3498. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the broad outlines of the Plan formulated to replenish forest cover during the Seventh Plan and its total capital outlay involved; and

(b) the amount earmarked for undertaking the action programme in the Sundarbans Area in West Bengal in the spheres of the Centrally-sponsored social forestry schemes including rural fuelwood plantations, the bridging of gap between demand and supply for industrial wood requirements, the conservation of ecosystem and fauna and flora, increasing of plantation under social forestry to meet the fuel requirements and choosing of new types of indigenous species for faster growth and for improving soil and moisture ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI) : (a) An annual afforestation of 5 million hectares is to be attained during the Seventh Five-year Plan period. Funds to the extent of about Rs. 2500 crores is estimated to be available from the Seventh Plan outlays for forestry, rural development and soil conservation activities.

(b) The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

Visit of PLO Chairman

3499. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Chairman, Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) visited India in November, 1985 to held talks with the Prime Minister on the West Asia situation; and

(b) if so, the outcome of the talks and whether any solution to the long-standing Palestinian issue is in the offing ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS