

**Reclamation of Wasteland in Gujarat**

666. DR. AMRIT LAL KALIDAS PATEL; Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total area of wasteland in Gujarat State;

(b) whether the Government propose to plant trees on the wasteland;

(c) if so, the area of land likely to brought under plantation every year, location—wise;

(d) whether preference is likely to be accorded to the useful plants in these plantations; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF WASTELANDS DEVELOPMENT) (COL. RAM SINGH) : (a) No detailed survey has yet been conducted for identification of wastelands in Gujarat, but according to one estimate the total extent of wastelands in Gujarat is 78.36 lakhs hectares.

(b) and (c) The Government has initiated many programmes for afforestation including the planting of trees on wastelands. The targets for afforestation and tree planting, under Point No. 16 of the 20 Point Programme, are fixed on year to year basis depending upon the availability of funds under Central and state Plans. The area covered under afforestation/tree planting activity in Gujarat during the last 3 years is as follows:—

<i>Year</i>	<i>Afforestation/Tree Planning (in lakh hectares)</i>	<i>Distribution of Seedlings for Planting on private Lands (in lakhs)</i>
1990—91	0.485	2356.36
1991—92	0.63	2511.86
1992—93	0.65	2281.46

For the year 1993—94 the tentative target of 1500 lakh seedlings for distribution for plating on private lands and afforestation over 68000 hectares has been fixed.

(d) and (e) Preference in the development of wasteland is accorded to those useful species of trees, shrubs and grasses which yield fuel wood, fodder, fruit and other useful products for the local population. The choice of species is governed by edifice and climatic factors.

*Translation]*

**Exchange of Fire at India Pak Border**

669. SHRI ARVIND TRIVEDI; Will the

PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the places and the number of incidents of exchange of fire on India Pak border and in Punch area during the last three months;

(b) the details of loss of life and property suffered as a result thereof; and

(c) the number of intruders caught on Indo—Pak Border during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) Incidents of exchange of firing between the troops/security forces on the two sides along the

Line of Control in J&K are, by and large, a regular feature. Some incidents of firing have also occurred along the IB in Rajasthan.

(b) Our Army had one killed and three wounded. The security fence at various places of International Border was also damaged in these firing incidents. There Pakistani casualties are reported to be higher.

(c) between April 93 and June 93, a total of 1819 intruders were apprehended along the Indo—Pak border.

[English]

### Participation of Private Sector in Foreign Investment

670. SHRI K. MATHUR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to involve the private sector in schemes intended to promote India as a destination for foreign investment;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF HEAVY INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI) : (a) to (c). Yes, Sir. The various policy initiatives detailed in the Statement on Industrial Policy laid on the Table of both Houses of Parliament on 24th July, 1991 and other economic liberalisations announced by Government are aimed, inter—alia, at making Indian Industry in the private sector internationally competitive and India a destination for foreign investment.

[Translation]

### Decontrol of Molasses

671. SHRI SHIBU SOREN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union government have de—controlled the Molasses and issued orders in this regard;

(b) whether the Sugar Mill Federation of India has expressed great concern on continuance of control on Molasses by the State government of Uttar Pradesh despite the above orders.

(c) if so, the action taken by the Government in this regard;

(d) the States where the Molasses has been totally decontrolled; and

(e) the details the profit/loss caused to the State Governments due to decontrol of the Molasses State—wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) The Order rescinding the Molasses Control Order 1961 has been notified on the 10th June, 1993.

(b) The Indian Sugar Mills Association has made a representation in this regard.

(c) The matter has been brought to the notice of the U. P. Government.

(d) and (e) With the rescinding of the Molasses Control Order, 1961 price and movement control over molasses has been with waned from the whole country. The objective of rescinding the molasses control order was to create a market environment in which molasses supply and prices would be governed by market forces. Changes in derived by States from molasses