

Project for Cleaning of Rivers

915. SHRI YASHWANTRAO PATIL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to launch national project for cleaning the country's rivers as an extension of the Ganga Action Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the estimated expenditure thereon and the modus operandi of financing it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI-MATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) to (c). The meeting of the Central Ganga Authority held under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister on 11.9.89 had decided that pollution abatement schemes for the Yamuna will commence in the second phase of the Ganga Action Plan. Pollution abatement schemes for other rivers in the country including the Yamuna, would depend upon the availability of resources in the Eighth Five Year Plan.

Review of Environment Policy

916. SHRI A. ASOKARAJ: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the terms of reference and details of the members of the High Level Committee set up to review the environment policy, especially with a view to protecting the tribal interest;

(b) whether the existing environment policy has failed to protect the interests of tribal population in the country; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI-MATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) An inter-Ministerial Committee has been set up to examine the various issues pertaining to protection of the rights and concessions enjoyed by tribal people and how their conditions can be improved, giving the attention to long run ecological sustainability and conservation of forests and bio-diversity.

The terms of reference of the Committee are given below.

- (i) To examine the rights and concessions enjoyed by the tribal communities with regard to access to forest products and to identify measures for improving the access concomitant with sustainable management of resources.
- (ii) To examine the implementation of various rules and regulations and to identify measures for improving their efficacy as regards fulfilment of the traditional rights and concessions.
- (iii) To review the existing measures for participation of tribals in forestry programmes and to propose measures for strengthening the same.
- (iv) To review the tribal sub-plan and to recommend measures for qualitative and quantitative improvement in implementing the various programmes.

(b) and (c). The National Forest Policy, 1988 aims at protecting the interests of tribal population in the country, and recognises the symbiotic relationship between the tribals and the forests. It lays down that the rights and concessions from forests should primar-

ity be for the bonafide use of the local communities, especially the tribals, and that they should be closely associated in the protection, regeneration and development of forests.

Silvipastoral Plantation Scheme

917. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the year since when the Centrally sponsored Silvipastoral Plantation Scheme is under implementation;

(b) the objective of the scheme;

(c) the name of the States where such scheme has been introduced;

(d) whether such scheme has been introduced in Orissa; and

(e) if so, since when and the various kinds of trees planted and total hectares of land covered under that scheme in Orissa since then?

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI MATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) The Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Silviculture Development is under implementation since 1986-87.

(b) The main objectives of the Scheme are to promote Silviculture in the rural areas, thereby leading to increase in fodder production as well as milk production, to encourage stall feeding and to increase employment and incomes in the rural parts of the country.

(c) The scheme is currently under implementation in the States of Arunachal

Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Rajasthan, Mizoram, Orissa, Punjab, Sikkim and West Bengal.

(d) and (e). The scheme was introduced in Orissa in 1986-87. The names of the main species being planted/raised in the states under the Scheme are *Sesbania aegyptiaca*, *Acacia nilotica*, *Bamboo*, *Glyricidia maculata*, *Subabul*, *Neem*, *Prosopis juliflora*, *Moringa oleifera*, *Siris*, *Sissoo*, etc. The yearwise area coverage under the scheme in Orissa State is as given below:

<i>Year</i>	<i>Area Coverage (in Hectares)</i>
1986-87	265
1987-88	500
1988-89	340
1989-90 (target)	400

Expenditure Incurred by Ganga Project Directorate

918. SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total expenditure incurred by the Ganga Project Directorate statewide and year-wise for the last three years;

(b) whether the entire funds were spent through Government agencies; and if private agencies were also involved, the names of such private agencies and the purpose of their involvement;

(c) whether the Government intends to launch similar schemes for cleaning the waters of other rivers in the country; and