

**Areas Reserved for Afforestation in Rajasthan**

**960. SHRIGIRDHARILAL BHARGAVA:** Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the areas in Rajasthan reserved for afforestation and the area out of that without plantation;

(b) whether the area without plantation is desert area which is causing adverse effect on the ecology of that area; and

(c) if so, the steps proposed to be taken for afforestation in such areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) Total area of wasteland in Rajasthan is estimated to be about 199 lakh hectares. About 11 lakh hectares of area has been covered under afforestation activities including farm forestry.

(b) and (c). An area of about 106 lakh hectares is estimated to be prone to wind erosion in Rajasthan. Afforestation and tree planting activities being carried out in Rajasthan also cover 12 desert districts of the State under different schemes of Social Forestry and the Desert Development Programme

**Backwardness of Bihar**

**961. SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV:** Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether representations have been received by Union Government recently to take special steps for removing backwardness of Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by Government in this regard so far?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. Planning Commission has received certain suggestions regarding Bihar.

(b) and (c). A statement is given below.

**STATEMENT**

Certain suggestions have been received regarding Bihar which mainly relate to following:-

1. Distribution of plan funds;
2. Royalty on crude oil;
3. Public enterprises;
4. Bank deposits;
5. Utilisation of funds for irrigation and flood control;
6. Functioning of co-operative institutions;
7. Railways;
8. Training of farmers;
9. Development of tribal and other backward areas.

Some of these points have since been discussed with the representatives of the State Government during 1990-91 Annual Plan discussions for Bihar and State Government has been suitably advised.

These suggestions have also been forwarded to the State Government for their necessary action.