

(b) whether the Planning Commission has assured full help to the State Governments for the implementation of the action plan to achieve the target, and

(c) if so, the details of assistance likely to be provided to the States, State-wise and the time by which necessary assistance is proposed to be made available?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI BHAGEY GOBARDHAN) (a) No, Sir The Planning Commission has not constituted any such Task Force in the context of the Eighth Five Year Plan

(b) and (c) Do not arise

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Wastelands Development

3001 SHRIBABANRAO DHAKNE Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORCES be pleased to state

(a) whether the State Governments have been advised to identify such wastelands which could be covered under the afforestation programme,

(b) if so, the details of data collected

from different States and the institutional arrangements available for implementation of this scheme by the State Governments, and

(c) the effective measures being taken to locate the wasteland for its afforestation?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NILAMANI ROUTRAY) (a) Yes, Sir

(b) and (c) Detailed survey of wastelands, stage-wise, has not been done for the whole country. However, it is estimated that there are about 1295 lac hectares of wastelands in the country. State-wise figures are given in the statement below. The nodal agency for implementation of the afforestation programme in the States are the State Forest Departments. The National Wastelands Development Board had also initiated Wastelands Identification Project in 1986 for identification, classification, and mapping of wastelands through remote sensing in collaboration with the Department of space and the National Remote sensing Agency. During phases I and II of this project 146 districts above been covered. Phase III of the project, which is under implementation, covers 85 other districts.

**STATEMENT**

*State-wise estimate of wastelands in India (in Lac hectares)*

| <i>Sl No</i> | <i>State/UT</i> | <i>Total</i> |
|--------------|-----------------|--------------|
| <i>1</i>     | <i>2</i>        | <i>3</i>     |
| 1            | Andhra Pradesh  | 114 16       |
| 2            | Assam           | 17 30        |
| 3            | Bihar           | 54 58        |

| <i>Sl. No.</i> | <i>State/UT</i>  | <i>Total</i> |
|----------------|------------------|--------------|
| <i>1</i>       | <i>2</i>         | <i>3</i>     |
| 4.             | Gujarat          | 78.36        |
| 5.             | Haryana          | 24.78        |
| 6.             | Himachal Pradesh | 19.58        |
| 7.             | Jammu & Kashmir  | 15.65        |
| 8.             | Karnataka        | 91.65        |
| 9.             | Kerala           | 12.79        |
| 10.            | Madhya Pradesh   | 201.42       |
| 11.            | Maharashtra      | 144.01       |
| 12.            | Manipur          | 14.38        |
| 13.            | Meghalaya        | 19.18        |
| 14.            | Nagaland         | 13.86        |
| 15.            | Orissa           | 63.84        |
| 16.            | Punjab           | 12.30        |
| 17.            | Rajasthan        | 199.34       |
| 18.            | Sikkim           | 2.81         |
| 19.            | Tamil Nadu       | 44.01        |
| 20.            | Tripura          | 9.73         |
| 21.            | Uttar Pradesh    | 80.61        |
| 22.            | West Bengal      | 25.36        |
|                | UTs              | 36.04        |
|                | Total            | 1295.74      |

N.B. The above estimate is not based on a country-wide survey of all wastelands in the country.