

by the end of this century if remedial multi-pronged efforts to mitigate the scarcity are not taken.

(b) The promotion and large scale extension of biogas has been included in the New 20-Point Programme and is proposed to be greatly stepped up in the Seventh Five-Year Plan and beyond.

(c) to (e). Under the National Project on Biogas Development, 1.5 million family size biogas plants are proposed to be set up in the Seventh Plan period. Under the Community and Institutional Biogas Programme, 1200 plants have also been proposed. Besides, in the Seventh Five-Year Plan, a target of 10.2 m.ha. of afforestation has been proposed under the Forestry Sector. This does not include the likely afforestation programme through activities of other agencies. In addition it is proposed to cover 1.5 million ha of waste and denuded land for growing energy plantations for purposes of fuelwood, fodder and power during the Seventh Plan period. All these programmes will be implemented in all suitable areas including tribal areas of Orissa and Madhya Pradesh.

Study of West Bengal Social Forestry Project

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

(a) whether a study of the West Bengal Social Forestry Project in 1974-77 had

shown that the State forests produced annually an average of 1 million tonnes of firewood, which implied a productivity of roughly 0.85 tonnes a hectare;

(b) whether in view of the spectre of fuelwood shortage by 2000 AD, Government have formulated any long-term plan to transform the existing low-yielding forest land into well-managed plantations of appropriate tree species and increase the yield from areas under natural forests to atleast the levels possible in degraded forest lands that is upto 3 tonnes a hectare annually; and

(c) if so, the broad outlines thereof and its anticipated capital outlay involved ?

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND
FORESTS (SHRI BIR SEN) : (a) Yes,
Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. There is a plan to increase the production from degraded forests akin to the level of natural forests.

(c) The broad outlines to increase the supply of fuelwood, fodder and small timber for the rural population and to improve the environment are planting activities for raising village woodlots, strip plantations, rehabilitating degraded forests and encouraging farm forestry for full utilisation of wastelands. The physical and financial targets for the Sixth Five Year Plan are as follows :

Particulars		Sixth Five Year Plan Targets Physical (ha.)
(1) Social Forestry Project (World Bank assisted) (1981-85)	(i) Village woodlots	3580
	(ii) Strip plantations	9500
	(iii) Farm Forestry	25520
	(iv) Rehabilitation of degraded forests	7500
		46100
(2) Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Social Forestry including Rural Fuelwood Plantations. (1980-85)	(i) Village Woodlots	6925
Total outlay is Rs. 1175.8 lakhs. (VI Plan period)		

The outlay for the Seventh Five Year Plan in respect of the above is yet to be finalised.