

4. Some States have adopted the procedure of sale of fuelwood, poles etc. from depots at concessional rates to reduce the pressure of fringe population on forests arising from illicit fuelwood gathering. As a measure of conservation of fuelwood in rural areas to reduce the pressure on forests, fuel-efficient chulas are being distributed amongst the rural farmers under different programmes of the Government.
5. Efforts are being made to popularise alternative sources of fuelwood like biogas, solar energy, kerosene etc. to reduce the pressure on the forests.
6. Extension activity to raise the level of consciousness for preservation of the environment and forests.
7. The rural farmers are an identified target group for intensive extension for adoption of tree farming on marginal and sub-marginal agricultural lands under the ongoing social forestry projects in the States.
8. Organisation of eco-development camps focussing on environmental activities and themes involving youth and students.
9. Support to seminars, symposia, workshops and conferences on a variety of subjects dealing with integrated development with a view to create awareness for the preservation of environment.
10. Production of films and audio-visuals.
11. Setting up of centres for non-formal environmental education programmes.

Relation with Scandinavian Countries

2413. DR. B. L. SHAILESH : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state : steps being taken to establish more closer cultural, industrial and technological relations with the Scandinavian countries particularly Norway ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI B. R. BHAGAT) : India has close cultural, industrial and technological relations with the Scandinavian countries, including Norway. There are a number of agreements between India and Norway such as Cultural Agreement, Memorandum of Understanding in the field of electronics, Memorandum of Understanding in the field of environment. India is also the recipient of aid and technical assistance from Norway. The Crown Prince of Norway accompanied by Princess Sonja paid an official visit to India from 1st to 10th February, 1986. It is expected that the visit will lead of further strengthening of the close cooperation between India and Norway.

Computerisation to Improve Efficiency of Public Servants

2414. SHRI P. R. KUMARA MANGALAM : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Informatics Centre (NIC) has developed considerable information and expertise and are conversant with many Ministries ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and future plan for improving the productivity of public servants and better and more accurate evaluation and control ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL) (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. National Informatics Centre has been providing following services to various Ministries/Departments Government of India :—

- i) To conduct feasibility studies and developing computer based Management Information Systems (MIS)
- ii) To design, develop and implement the MIS ; and
- iii) To provide computer based facilities to the Government Departments make use of the MIS developed National Informatics Centre.

The Information Systems developed by NIC for Government are in the areas such as Finance, Financial Resources, Energy, Agriculture and Water Planning, Statistics, Industry, Commerce, Urban Development, Health, Human Resources and Transport. In these areas information systems are being progressively developed for assisting effective planning and control by the Department in their respective areas.

Ecological Conditions of Sunderbans

2415. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) what steps are being taken to improve the ecological conditions in the Sunderbans area in West Bengal ;

(b) whether any plan has been formulated in this behalf ; and

(c) if so, its broad outlines and manner and mode for implementation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI) :

- (a) 1. A national park for protection of wildlife in Sunderbans has already been established.
2. 2585 sq. km. with 1330 sq. km. core area of Sundarban National Park constitutes one of the 15 Tiger Reserves of India under Project Tiger Scheme of the Government.
3. It is further proposed to include Sunderbans in the network of Biosphere Reserves in India for conservation of biological diversity.
4. Research is being undertaken to understand the structure and functioning of the Sundarban mangrove ecosystem particularly to evaluate the impact of man-induced stresses such as fisheries, agriculture, clear-felling, tourism etc. with an objective to develop conservation strategies based on sound ecological principles.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) There is a Management Plan to control human activities in Sunderbans. All forestry operations in the reserve have been stopped. This programme receives Central assistance under the Project Tiger Scheme.

Transfer of Jurisdiction of fort of Maharani Jhansi Lakshmbai

2416. SHRI G. M. BANATWALA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the historical fort of Maharani Jhansi Lakshmbai has been transferred from the jurisdiction of the Defence Ministry to the Government of U.P. ;

(b) if so, since when ; and

(c) reasons for the same and the terms of transfer ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARUN SINGH) : (a) to (c) Government sanction has been issued for the transfer of the historical Fort of Maharani Jhansi along with apputnant land (50 acres) to the Archaeological Survey of India for being maintained as a National Monument.

Government have also agreed to grant lease for 45 acres of land and transfer 5 acres of land to the State Government of Uttar Pradesh for beautification and landscaping in accordance with the approved plan. This transfer of land will be in exchange of equivalent value of land to the Ministry of Defence.

Composition of National Wastelands Development Board

2417. SHRIMATI MADHUREE SINGH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state the composition of the National Wasteland Development Board ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI) : The composition of the National Wastelands Development Board as notified in the Government of India Ministry of Environment and Forests Resolution No. 7-22/85-FRY (P) dated the 7th May, 1985 is as follows :—