

**Development of wasteland**

2977. SHRI JUJHAR SINGH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the agencies proposed to be employed for the development of wasteland viz. individuals, cooperatives, limited companies, and semi-Government organisations;

(b) the terms and conditions on which these agencies are to be engaged;

(c) whether consultancy service for development of wasteland has been envisaged; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

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

(a) Apart from the Central and State Government Departments concerned all other Agencies like Schools, Yuvak Mangal Dals, Mahila Mangal Dals, Tree Growers Cooperatives, Local Bodies, State and Central Public Sector Undertakings and Voluntary Agencies are being sought to be involved in the programme of Wastelands Development. Forest-based industries are also to be encouraged not only to afforest wastelands with a view to secure raw-material for their captive use, but also to make a commitment to undertake fuel-wood and fodder plantations for the use of the local community on a portion of the land leased to them.

(b) All the above Agencies are expected to engage in this activity with their own resources as well as Institutional Finance. However, there is a scheme for grant-in-aid assistance to Voluntary Agencies, which may take up demonstration projects for nursery-raising and block plantation on community land or on land belonging to the rural poor and scheduled castes and tribes, as well as for awareness raising, extension and training. Industries are being encouraged to enter into agreements with the rural poor and small farmers for the supply of their raw-

material needs on a viable basis. Such plantations by industries must be raised on wastelands distant from habitations, so as not to disturb existing community use.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. If specific issues in wastelands development need expert assessment or field survey, appraisal and the like, there is provision for occasional consultancy to do so.

**Rehabilitation of physically handicapped persons**

2978. KUMARI PUSHPA DEVI : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have set up some training institutes to provide education and adequate training for the rehabilitation and self-employment of handicapped persons;

(b) whether Government have opened such educational institutions in different States;

(c) if so, the number of such institutions which have been set up in Madhya Pradesh; and

(d) the details thereof ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO) : (a) Yes, Sir. Government of India have set up four National Institutes—one each in the field of visual, hearing orthopaedic and mental handicaps. These are apex level institutions primarily meant for training of professionals and are respectively located at Dehradun (U.P.), Bombay (Maharashtra) Calcutta (W.B.) and Hyderabad (A.P.).

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Nil.

(d) Does not arise.