

tion of metal scrap unauthorisedly. Sometimes accidents do occur when they collect unexploded shells and grenades. During the last three years, 23 accidents involving civilians including children were reported.

All possible measures are taken to ensure that civilians including children do not enter the range area during firing. But as the range areas are vast, it is not always possible to prevent entry of civilians after firing has taken place.

Exodus of Hindus from Pakistan

4081. SHRI SHANTI DHARIWAL : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the large scale exodus of Hindus into India via Rajasthan border;

(b) if so, the steps taken so far to deal with the situation and the arrangements made for their rehabilitation, and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INTERNAL SECURITY (SHRI ARUN NEHRU) : (a) No large scale exodus of Hindus into India via Rajasthan border has come to the notice of the Government of India recently.

(b) and (c). Does not arise.

[English]

Afforestation schemes in Bihar

4082. SHRI RAM BAHADUR SINGH :
SHRI YOGESHWAR PRASAD YOGESH :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Bihar Government have submitted any plans or schemes for afforestation;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) how much area is proposed to be taken up for afforestation in Bihar during the Seventh Five Year plan period ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI) : (a) No, Sir.

Afforestation is a State Subject and the State Government is competent to prepare and implement afforestation schemes/plans, using the sectoral Plan outlay for the forestry sector and allocation under the centrally sponsored schemes.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Bihar Government has proposed to afforest 2,81,800 ha. of wasteland 6040 K.M. strip plantation during the VII Five Year Plan. Details are as under :-

TYPE	Area (in ha.)
1. Degraded forest land and village commonlands under afforestation schemes, NREP and RLEGP.	99000
2. Private land, through farm forestry.	1,60,300
3. Government wasteland.	22,500
4. Strip plantation along canals, roads and Railwayline.	6,040 Kms.

Shifting of Firing Practice Range Gujarat to Rang of Kutch

4083. SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state whether Government propose to shift firing practice range near Tikar, Gujarat to areas in the Rana of Kutch further away from human habitation to check untoward accidents ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARUN SINGH) : There is no proposal to shift the field firing range near Tikar.