

(c) Such plans can be considered in the light of the financial resources and the participation of the State Government.

Forest cover in Madhya Pradesh

5158. DR. PRABHAT KUMAR MISHRA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the percentage of area of Madhya Pradesh under afforestation;

(b) whether there has been any decrease in the density of forest area in Madhya Pradesh; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to check this decrease ?

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

(a) Approximately 0.44 per cent of the geographical area of the State has been brought under afforestation during 1986-87. Afforestation has been carried out over 1.9 per cent of the geographical area of the State since the beginning of the First Five Year Plan.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The following steps have been taken by the Government to check deforestation :

1. Enactment and enforcement of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.
2. Guidelines have been issued to the state governments to :

- (i) avoid clear felling of natural forest for raising plantations as far as possible. Where such fellings are unavoidable due to restoration of crop or other silvicultural considerations, it should be restricted to areas not exceeding 10 ha. in the hills and 20 ha. in the plains. In no case good natural forests should be clear-felled in preference to poorly stocked natural forests

(ii) ban all fellings above an altitude of 1000 meters atleast for some years.

(iii) to earmark 4 per cent of the geographical area as protection areas, like wildwife sanctuaries, National Parks, Biosphere Reserves, Preservation Plots, etc.

(iv) prefer raising of mixed species of indigenous origin to monoculture. The indigenous species should receive precedence over exotics.

The National Wastelands Development Board has been set up during 1985 to step up afforestation programme.

[English]

Proposal for establishment of Hyderabad-Karnataka Development Board

5159. SHRI NARSING SURYAVANSI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Karnataka Government had sent a proposal for financial assistance for establishing Hyderabad-Karnataka Development Board; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. K. GADHVI) : (a) and (b). Planning Commission had received a proposal from Karnataka Government in July, 1985 for additional Central assistance of Rs. 130 crores during the Seventh Plan period for financing the Plan for Backward Area Development Gulbarga Division prepared by Hyderabad-Karnataka Development Committee set up by the Government of Karnataka in 1980. The proposal was examined in the Planning Commission and reply was sent to the State Government clarifying that Central assistance is allocated to States according to the Modified Gadgil Formula approved