

(b) and (c). While the Government have no information about any cost-benefit analysis on the use of firewood for curing tobacco, steps have been initiated to find alternative methods of curing tobacco without using firewood.

Denudation of Forests

6049. PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether continued denudation of forests had taken place in the country ; and

(b) whether Government are prepared to accept that unabated denudation would lead to a major ecological disaster ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) and (b). Government are aware of hazards posed by denudation of forests. However, the rate of denudation has been effectively checked after the Forest (Conservation) Act was passed by the Parliament in 1980.

Environmental Development of Metropolitan Cities

6050. SHRI MOHANLAL PATEL : Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are considering any time-bound programme for the environment development of metropolitan cities, industrial cities and all the capital of the States of the country ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) if not, the reasons thereof and whether Government now propose to consider such a programme ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SPORTS, IN THE MINISTRY OF WORKS AND HOUSING AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) to (c). No proposal for a time-bound programme for the

environmental development of major cities is under consideration as this is a State subject. One of the objectives of the Sixth Five Year Plan is to promote integrated development of small and medium towns in order to reduce the rate of migration to metropolitan cities.

As regards the environmental improvement of slums in urban areas, it is proposed to tackle the problem over a period of time. The Sixth Five Year Plan envisages an outlay of Rs. 151.45 crores to ensure that 10 million slum population is benefitted by 1985.

World Bank assisted Urban Development Projects are under execution in Madras, Calcutta and Kanpur and these projects have a component of slum upgradation. A proposal to take up a World Bank assisted Urban Development Project in Bombay which includes a programme of upgradation of slums benefitting one lakh families is also under consideration. "Urban Development" being in the State sector, other measures for planned development of the metropolitan cities are to be taken by the State Governments as part of their urban development projects.

Economic Viability of Hand Run Pumping Sets and Earthen Irrigation Pipes

6051. SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1429 on 6 March, 1984 regarding installation of captive power plants and state :

(a) whether economic viability of hand-run pumping sets and earthen irrigational pipes already at work in Darbhanga District has since been examined and subsidy under District Rural Development Agency for at least the whole of Bihar has since been sanctioned ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ;

(d) whether hand-run pumping set had been formally inaugurated by a Member of Parliament on 14 November, 1983 at Baha-