

**Publicity of Family Planning Programmes in Regional languages through troupes**

3210. SHRI S. A. AGADI : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the troupes formed in March, 1970 for the publicity of family planning programmes in regional languages have started functioning; and

(b) if so, the extent of success achieved by them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING, AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL) : (a) Yes, Sir,

(b) The shows performed by these troupes have proved popular.

**Exploitation of Forest Wealth**

3211. SHRI S. A. AGADI : Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state;

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to exploit the forest wealth under any programme; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE) : (a) and (b). There is no special scheme under the consideration of the Central Government for exploitation of forest wealth in the country. However, the Government of India have undertaken two projects (i) Pre-investment Survey of Forest Resources, and (ii) Logging Training Centres which would indirectly help in fuller and better exploitation of the timber resources of the country.

The project of Pre-investment Survey of Forest Resources envisages detailed investigations of economic availability for

establishing suitable forest industries. The Logging Training Project on the other hand aims at providing training to the personnel engaged in timber extraction operations with a view to introduce improved methods of logging.

Pre-investment Survey of Forest Resources scheme, started as a joint UNDP/FAO/GOI project in 1965, was carried over an area of about 292260 sq. kms. in three zones namely Northern Zone (Himachal Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh) Central Zone (Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Andhra & Maharashtra) and Southern Zone (Mysore and Kerala). The total funds provided for it were Rs. 131 lakhs at pre-devaluation. Further as part of the follow-up programme by the Government of India, a details scheme has been approved with a view to conduct pre-investment survey over an additional area of approximately 85,000 sq. kms. During 1969-70, field work has been completed in respect of forest areas of Jammu & Kashmir, Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra under this project.

As regards the Logging Training Project, it came into commission with UNDP/FAO assistance from August, 1965 and concluded as an aided project on 31.8.69. The project is however, being continued during the Fourth Plan as a Government of India project. Since its commencement in 1965, 1302 forest personal have been trained upto September, 1970.

Besides the above, work on forest exploitation has also been taken up by the State Government/Union Territories as given in the Statement laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library See No. LT-4474/70.]

**Survey of underground water resources in Coastal belt of Kerala by Central Ground Water Board**

3212. SHRI MANGALATHUMADAM : Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the newly formed Central Ground Water Board has been making a survey of underground water resources in the Kerala Coastal belt;