

Statement*For the Financial Year 1998-99*

Sl.No.	State	Physical Target (ha.)	Financial Allocation (Tentative) (Rs. In lakhs)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	10300	600
2.	Assam	1300	50
3.	Bihar	2370	500
4.	Gujarat	9688	380
5.	Himachal Pradesh	8000	500
6.	Jammu & Kashmir	7292	550
7.	Karnataka	42000	1000
8.	Kerala	1000	50
9.	Madhya Pradesh	25000	1050
10.	Maharashtra	24000	1000
11.	Orissa	6000	250
12.	Rajasthan	22,000	1100
13.	Sikkim	1000	50
14.	Tamil Nadu	6500	500
15.	Tripura	1000	50
16.	Uttar Pradesh	1900	220
17.	West Bengal	3800	250
Total		194480	8100

Recorded Messages in Kannada for Directory Enquiry

5674. SHRI H.G. RAMULU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether recorded messages for directory enquiry and trunk booking etc., are available in Hindi in the Telecom. Districts in Karnataka particularly in Dharwad Telecom District; and

(b) if so, whether the Government proposed to replace Hindi messages with Kannada version?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASHTA):

(a) No Sir, except in Dharwad Telecom district where Change Number announcement service is also available in hindi in addition to Kanada and English.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

Utilisation of Timber

5675. SHRI M. RAJIAH:
SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Rs. 1,977 Cr. Timber rots in N-E post SC ban" appearing in the 'Economic Times' dated June 8, 1998;

(b) the step proposed to transfer the timber to warehouses in Government custody to avoid soil poisoning and epidemic for other natural habitats;

(c) whether the Government proposed to set up industrial zones in each district of North Eastern States for utilization for timber in plywood and veneer factories set up there; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI) (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Hon'ble Supreme Court *vide* order dated 15.1.1998 directed all State Governments for immediate transportation of all inventorised timber including seized timber lying in forests to specified forests depots.

(c) and (d) Hon'ble Supreme Court has directed all North-Eastern states to notify industrial estates for locating the wood-based industries in consultation with Ministry of Environment and Forests. State Governments are in process of identification and notification of industrial estates.

[Translation]

LPT into HPT at Kolhapur, Maharashtra

5676. SHRI KALLAPPA AWADE:
SHRI SADASHIVRAO D. MANDLIK:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received complaints about poor telecast from the areas where Low Power TV Transmitters have been installed;

(b) if so, the measures being taken by the Government in this regard;

(c) whether any proposal is under consideration of the Government for converting these Low Power Transmitter into High Power Transmitters in the country particularly in the Kolhapur district of Maharashtra;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) Though the quality of telecast from all the transmitters is reported to be satisfactory, there are complaints regarding many Low Power Transmitters (LPTs) not providing full time transmission mainly due to staff shortage.

(b) Prasar Bharati has initiated action for suitably augmenting staff strength at LPTs facing staff shortage. These are also envisaged to give full time transmission by the first week of October, 1998.

(c) to (e) The scheme for upgradation of 42 LPTs into HPTs are presently under implementation. No LPT is being upgraded to HPT in the Kolhapur district of Maharashtra. However, a new HPT is proposed to be set up at Mahapatgarh in Kolhapur district subject to sanction of the scheme by the competent authority and availability of adequate resources, other Infrastructural facilities and *inter se* priorities.

UNCCD

5677. SHRI GAURISHANKER CHATURBHUIJ BISEN:
Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have signed United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in December, 1996;

(b) if so, whether there is any policy to ensure people's participation in UNCCD;

(c) if so, whether any National Action Plan has been prepared so as to ensure the women's participation in the programme; and

(d) if so, the success achieved so far and the steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) to (d) The Government of India signed the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) in October, 1994 and ratified it in December, 1996. The strategy to combat Desertification outlined in the Convention is based on extensive people's participation. The Government of India has several programmes and schemes for plantation and soil conservation, including in the arid areas and deserts. An illustrative list of these schemes is attached as Statement. These schemes are implemented with participation of local communities, including women.

Statement

(a) Ministry of Environment and Forests

- (1) Integrated Afforestation and Eco-development Projects Scheme.
- (2) Area Oriented Fuelwood and Fodder Projects Scheme.
- (3) Non-Timber Forest produce including Medicinal Plants Scheme.
- (4) Grants-in-Aid to Voluntary Agencies.
- (5) Association of Scheduled Tribes and Rural Poor in the Regeneration of degraded forests.