

Reserve Forest in Maharashtra

94. SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE :
SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR :

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

- (a) the area identified as forest/reserve forest in Maharashtra;
- (b) the area of land where afforestation has been carried out during each of the last three years;
- (c) whether the State Government has engaged any foreign organisation for this work;
- (d) if so, assistance received from the Union Government and abroad, project-wise;
- (e) the expenditure likely to be incurred on each of the project; and
- (f) the progress made so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI) : (a) As per the State of Forest Report 1997, the recorded forest area in Maharashtra is 63,842 sq. km. including 48,373 sq. km. of reserved forests.

(b) Afforestation has been carried out over an area of 1,20,139 ha., 1,00,328 ha. and 91,910 ha. during 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98 respectively.

(c) to (e) Maharashtra Forestry Project is under implementation with World Bank assistance. The aid component provided by the World Bank is US \$ 108 million. An outlay of Rs. 59.6 crores has been made by the State Government for 1998-99 in respect of Maharashtra Forestry Project. In addition provision of Rs. 149.67 lakhs, Rs. 103.38 lakhs and Rs. 82.37 lakhs have been made by the Central Government as assistance under Integrated Afforestation and Eco Development Project Scheme, Area Oriented Fuelwood and Fodder Project Scheme and Non Timber Forest Produce Scheme respectively during 1998-99 for afforestation purposes.

(f) An expenditure of Rs. 24 crores has been incurred under Maharashtra Forestry Project upto September, 1998 whereas Rs. 48.58 lakhs, Rs. 27.91 lakhs and Rs. 40.95 lakhs have been released as Central assistance under Integrated Afforestation and Eco Development Project Schemes, Area Oriented Fuelwood and Fodder Project Scheme and Non Timber Forest Produce Scheme respectively.

[Translation]**Employment Generation Through Science and Technology**

95. SHRI PRABHASH CHANDRA TIWARI : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

- (a) the extent of success achieved by the Government under the comprehensive employment generation scheme through Science and Technology.
- (b) the details of guidelines issued by the State Governments to make this scheme successful; and
- (c) the amount released during 1998-99 for this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a) to (c) With a view to enabling the beneficiaries to start their own micro-enterprises or get wage employment, a scheme for skill development training through Science & Technology is being implemented by the Department of Science & Technology. The scheme is implemented through training institutions and non-governmental organisations by providing funds directly to them. The guidelines for receiving project proposals from technical institutions, non-governmental organisations or other entrepreneurship development institutions include the objectives, duration, criterion for the eligibility of institutions, suggested areas of training and monitoring and evaluation mechanism. During the year 1988-89, an amount of Rs. 140.00 lakhs has been provided to various agencies to implement the scheme and approximately 4,500 persons are expected to benefit.

[English]**Deforestation of Casamina in Orissa**

96. SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether a large scale deforestation of casamina plant along the coastal belt of Orissa has taken place during the last three years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government intend to go for afforestation in those deforested areas;
- (d) if so, the total funds allocated for that purpose; and
- (e) the target date fixed to achieve the goal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI) : (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Setting up of Courts at Tahsil Level

97. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any proposal for setting up of courts at Tahsil level; and

(b) if so, the time by which a decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. M. THAMBI DURAI) : (a) and (b) The matters relating to setting up of courts at Tahsil level are the concern of the respective State Government and High Court in accordance with the provisions of Article 234 of the Constitution of India.

Proposal for Overbridge at Tindivanam

98. SHRI T.R. BAALU : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have made any progress in the works for the proposed overbridge at Tindivanam in Tamil Nadu;

(b) whether the Government have a time bound programme for the completion of the same; and

(c) the time by which the project is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The project is targetted to be completed by February, 2000.

Four Laning between Baripada and Berhampur

99. SHRI BHARTRAHARI MAHTAB : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any plan to construct four lane highway between Baripada and Berhampur on National Highway-5 in Orissa;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the four-lane construction on NH-5 between Cuttack and Bhubaneswar has been unduly delayed;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the cost escalation to that effect?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) and (b) Details of four laning of National highway No. 5 between Baripada & Berhampur in Orissa are as under :

S.No.	Name of the Job	Present Status
1.	Bhubaneswar-Cuttack Jagatpur section	Four laning work is in progress.
2.	Jagatpur-Chandikhol section	Tenders have been received by NHAI and are under evaluation.
3.	Chandikhol-Baripada section	Preparation of Feasibility study and detailed project report has been undertaken by NHAI.
4.	Bhubaneswar-Berhampur	Proposals to conduct feasibility study and preparation of detailed project report for four-laning has been staggered due to paucity of funds.

(c) and (d) Due to non-availability of unencumbered site, cutting of trees, Court Stay Order for removal of temples, land acquisition at some places, demand of local people for service roads/under pass/median cuts, presence of old unknown underground utilities, lack of availability of adequate construction material, unprecedented floods/rains, inadequate resources of the Contractor, the project is lagging behind the schedule.

(e) Escalation shall be payable to the contractors in accordance with the contract condition.

[Translation]

Environmental Courts

100. DR. MADAN PRASAD JAISWAL : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state .:

(a) whether the Government have acted on the