

Title: Need to obtain World Bank loan for development of Forest Projects in Maharashtra.

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR (NAGPUR): I would like to draw the attention of the Union Government to the proposals submitted by the Maharashtra Forest Department to the Union Government for obtaining the World Bank loan of Rs.700 crore for implementation of the Forestry Project in the State.

The Maharashtra Forest Department is the first after China to have received loans from the International Bank for its overall developments in 1992-93. The Bank had initially sanctioned an outlay of Rs.431.51 crore which was later revised by Rs.353.16 crore after a midterm review.

Sir, the Maharashtra Forest Department launched several forest development programmes with the help of World Bank, including plantation, civil works, developing nurseries, launching village eco-diversity programme was strengthened and infrastructure developed in the State during the period.

Sir, the World Bank Mission which visited different forest areas in the State during the last week of October, 1999 to supervise and review the project has lauded the efforts of department for achieving its goal.

Sir, as the proposal for World Bank assistance is still pending with the Union Government for the last several months, I urge upon the Government to kindly process the report and obtain the World Bank assistance in time, so that the projects will continue even after March, 2000.

I request the Union Government to expedite the proposal and forward the same to the World Bank for implementing the forest projects in the State.

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