

Apna Utsav

6078. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received complaints in respect of serious financial irregularities committed by the organisers of Apna Utsav;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government have ordered conducting an enquiry into these irregularities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (PROF. M.G.K. MENON) (a) to (c). Government is aware of criticism in some sections of the press concerning the planning and organisation of the two Apna Utsavs which have been held so far. No formal complaints have been received in the Department regarding financial irregularities, except those contained in the comptroller & Auditor General of India's report for the year ending 31st March, 1988 about the non-observance of financial rules and procedures by the organisers of Apna Utsav held in Delhi in November 1986. A report of the action taken by the Government on the Audit Report duly vetted by audit is required to be submitted to the Public Accounts committee of Parliament in accordance with the established procedures. This Report is now under finalisation.

Afforestation in Maharashtra

6079. SHRI KISANRAO BABURAO BANKHELE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the year since when the centrally

sponsored afforestation scheme in Maharashtra is being implemented;

(b) the aim of this scheme and the names of States where it is being implemented;

(c) the areas reserved for afforestation in Maharashtra; and

(d) the details of afforestation schemes for the reserved areas for all the States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) and (b). The Centrally Sponsored Scheme entitled "social Forestry including Rural Fuelwood Plantation" was introduced in 1980 and during the Seventh five Year Plan was in operation in selected districts in all the States including Maharashtra.

(c) and (d). No areas are reserved for afforestation as such. However, afforestation activities are mostly carried out on wastelands including dograded forest lands. The total area of wastelands in Maharashtra is about 144 lakh hectares. Afforestation and tree planting was done during the Seventh Five Year Plan under a number of Central and State Plan Schemes, specially the following:

- Social Forestry including Rural fuelwood Plantations.

- Operation Soil Watch.

- Desert Development Programme.

- Drought Prone Areas Programme.

- National Rural Employment Programme.