

Conservator of Forests have been authorised to clear proposals involving forest land less than one hectare.

Schemes for Industrially Backward States

6138. SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the main criteria for declaring a state industrially backward,

(b) whether Kerala is regarded as an industrially backward state;

(c) whether the Planning Commission is considering any special plan to remove the industrial backwardness of such stated during the Eighth Plan; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH): (a) The Pandey Working group, set up by the Planning Commission in 1968, to study the question of regional imbalances, recommended the following criteria to be applied in aggregate, for the purpose of identification of industrially backward States and Union Territories:

- (i) Total per capital income;
- (ii) Per capital income from Industry & Mining;
- (iii) Number of workers engaged in registered factories;
- (iv) Per capital annual consumption of electricity;
- (v) Length of surface roads in relation to-(a) population; and (b) area of the State;

(vi) Railway mileage in relation to-(a) the population; and (b) the area of the State-

Besides, States (Assam, Jammu & Kashmir and Nagaland) identified earlier for Special Central Assistance owing to their special problems and backwardness, were also to be considered for special treatment by way of incentives for promotion of industrial development.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d). In order to remove industrial backwardness, a number of fiscal and non-fiscal incentives and concessions have been provided by Central and State governments. The question of promoting a more balanced industrial development will be duly considered while finalising the Eighth Plan. In 1990-91, the Central Investment Subsidy Scheme is being revived for small scale industry located in backward and rural areas.

Navodaya Vidyalayas

6139. SHRIGULAB CHAND KATARIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Navodaya Vidyalayas Scheme was started by Government to create some model schools in different parts of the country so that other schools could emulate their example;

(b) whether the purpose of opening these schools has been fulfilled;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether opening of these schools in large numbers has defeated the very purpose of the original scheme; and

(e) whether Government are satisfied

with the standard of education imparted by these schools?

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) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e): No evaluation has yet been undertaken regarding the extent to which the purposes for which Navodaya Vidyalayas were set up, have been fulfilled. Government have, as of now, decided to review the Navodaya Vidyalaya Scheme. Until this is completed no new Navodaya Vidyalayas will be opened; but the existing ones will be supported as per the original plans.

Promotion of Nurseries

6140. SHRI C.M. NEGI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a plan to promote people's nurseries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the financial assistance provided to Uttar Pradesh government during the last three years, yearwise, in this regard;

(d) whether some specific amounts have been earmarked/spent on promotion of such nurseries in Uttar Pradesh; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

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). Decentralised People's Nurseries are being promoted under a Centrally

Sponsored Scheme, which was initiated in 1986. Under the Scheme, funds are provided to the States and Union territories in the beginning of the season to raise seedlings through local organisation like Schools Mahila Mandals, etc.

(c) to (e). The Government of Uttar Pradesh did not avail of any assistance under the Scheme in 1987-88 and 1988-89. In 1989-90, a total amount of Rs. 210 lakhs was provided under the Scheme to Uttar Pradesh Government. In addition, 19 voluntary agencies in Uttar Pradesh have been provided a total amount amount of Rs. 17.50 lakhs for raising their own nurseries under the projects sanctioned in their favour.

[*Translation*]

Remote Sensing Photography of forest Cover in Country

6141. SHRI GIRDHARILAL BHARGAWA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the studies of forests cover are being conducted since 1972 by the National Remote Sensing Agency, Hyderabad from photographs received through Satellite;

(b) whether the area of forest cover is constantly declining; and

(c) if so, the areas under forests in States and Union Territories in 1972 and the percentage of decline registered in this regard at present according to NRSA data?

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) National level forest cover mapping and