

versity. After due examination it was felt that there was no such case.

[*Translation*]

Ex-Servicemen Welfare Fund

*649. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the allocation made by Government to the Welfare Fund for ex-servicemen during the last two years, State-wise:

(b) the amount spent therefrom and the approximate number of ex-servicemen benefitted thereby:

(c) whether Government propose to increase the allocation in the Welfare Fund for ex-servicemen, in view of the rising prices; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. RAJA RAMANNA): (a) The Central Government does not make allocations to the Welfare Funds for ex-servicemen maintained by the State Governments. The State Governments have a corpus of Special Funds for the welfare of ex-servicemen. The interest earned by the investment of such corpus funds is utilised by the State Governments to meet expenditures regarding the welfare of ex-servicemen. Proposals for the augmentation of the corpus of these Special Funds maintained by the States are considered and suitable assistance is released from the National Defence Fund, on the basis of equal contributions by the concerned State Governments. No such contributions have been made from the National Defence Fund during the last two years.

(b) to (d). Do not arise in view of answer

to (a) above.

[*English*]

Expenditure of Entrepreneurship Development Schemes

*650 SHRI ERA ANBARASU:
SHRI MANORANJAN
BHAKTA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any expenditure has been incurred on various entrepreneurship development schemes under the National Science and Technology Entrepreneurship Development Board in 1988-89;

(b) if so, the detail thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to enhance the allocation during 1990-91; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (PROF. M.G.K. MENON): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

The total expenditure on various activities of the National Science and Technology Entrepreneurship Development Board amounted to a figure of Rs. 166.1 lakhs in 1988-89. This amount was spent on two major activities, namely, Entrepreneurship Training and associated activities (Rs. 101.60 lakhs), and support to Science and Technology Entrepreneurs Parks (STEPs) (Rs. 64.50 lakhs).

(c) and (d). Yes Sir, the increase in allocation is due to greater emphasis on activities related to employment generation on a low cost basis. The total budget allocation for 1990-91 is Rs. 3.51 crores. The break-

up of the proposed amount is given below:

- (i) Generation of employment through Science and Technology methods = Rs.2.25 crores.
- (ii) Training for Science and Technology persons on Entrepreneurship Development = Rs.1.26 crores.

[*Translation*]

Deforestation in Uttar Pradesh

*651. SHRI SHEO SHARAN VERMA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the extent of denudation of forest area in Uttar Pradesh during the last three years;

(b) whether it has been causing adverse affects on environment; and

(c) if so, the action proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) and (b). According to the study conducted by Forest Survey of India with the help of satellite imagery during the period 1981-83 to 1985-87 the area under actual forest cover in Uttar Pradesh has increased from 31,443 sq. kms to 33,844 sq. kms. The percentage of forest cover in Uttar Pradesh is only 11.5% as against 33% envisaged in the National Forest Policy, 1988. The low percentage of forest area is responsible for floods and salination of soil, soil erosion and other adverse environmental hazards.

(c) The new National Forest Policy, 1988 has stipulated that following steps should be taken for enhancement of the

natural environment;—

- (i) Maintenance of environmental stability through preservation and, where necessary, restoration of ecological balance that has been adversely disturbed by serious depletion of the forest.
- (ii) Checking soil erosion and denudation in the catchment areas of rivers, lakes, reservoirs in the interest of soil and water conservation, for mitigating floods and droughts and for the retardation of siltation of reservoirs.
- (iii) Increasing substantially the forest/tree cover through massive afforestation and social forestry programmes, especially on all denuded, degraded and unproductive lands.

[*English*]

Manufacture of VCRs/VCPs

*652 SHRI R.N. RAKESH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether demand for VCRs and VCPs is increasing day by day in the country;

(b) whether these items are being manufactured in the country; if so, the extent of indigenous components and if not, whether it is proposed to manufacture the VCRs and VCPs indigenously;

(c) whether foreign companies have shown interest to establish their units in India independently or with the partnership of Indian Companies; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?