

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?