

have succeeded in generating natural resources and restoring ecological balance if not, the reasons thereof;

(b) whether benefit of this programme have been enjoyed by big farmers and industries which depended on forest products and the rural poor are not benefited;

(c) if so, the corrective measures taken in this regard; and

(d) whether there is a proposal to lay down a clear policy relating to social forestry programmes; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NILAMANI ROURAY): (a) The Social Forestry programme has led to increase of wood biomass resources in the country. It is not possible at this stage to say whether the programme has succeeded in restoring the ecological balance since changes take time. However, the programme is oriented towards restoring the ecological balance.

(b) to (d). Benefits of the Social Forestry programme have also accrued to the small and marginal farmers and the rural poor, through employment and usufructs.

The Wastelands Development Programme lays down the future direction of the social forestry activities, with utmost priority to regeneration of degraded forests, greening of public lands and promotion of farm forestry through micro-planning and people's participation.

Renovation of Sri Nagesh Garden In Delhi Cantonment

7742. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the amount being spent by the Delhi

Cantonment Board for renovation of the Sri Nagesh garden in Delhi Cantt.;

(b) the rationale behind heavy expenditure on it; and

(c) how far this huge expenditure on non plan works is justified?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. RAJA RAMANNA): (a) Rs. 42 lakhs.

(b) and (c). Renovation/improvement will provide a modern garden and recreation facilities to the residents of the Cantonment. It will also help in improvement of the environment. The expenditure on renovation is not at the cost of civic amenities. This is a part of the beautification plan of Cantonment.

Teaching Allowance to Lab Assistants

7743. SHRI MANDHATA SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to pay Teaching Allowance to Laboratory Assistant and Attendants of Kendriya Vidyalayas and other analogous schools;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA): (a) to (c). Teaching Allowance has since been granted to Laboratory Assistants working in Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan w.e.f. 1.1.1986. No teaching Allowance is admissible to Laboratory Attendant who belongs to Group 'D' category. The Group 'D' category does not come under teaching staff.