

Degraded Forests

7745. SHRICHHABIRAMARGAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Union Government recognise degraded forests as "Wasteland";

(b) the total amount that is being provided by Government for redevelopment of the degraded forests;

(c) whether Government propose to launch a thrust programme for regenerating degraded forests on priority basis; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NILAMANI ROURAY): (a) 'Wasteland' is degraded land which can be brought under vegetative cover, with reasonable effort, and which is currently under-utilised and land which is deteriorating for lack of appropriate water and soil management or on account of natural causes. Degraded forests of such type are considered as 'wastelands'.

(b) The afforestation programme, which includes social forestry, covers degraded forest lands. The total allocations for afforestation and tree planting activities for all States and Union Territories during 1988-89 and 1989-90 were Rs. 620.48 crores and Rs. 504 crores respectively.

(c) and (d). Regeneration of degraded forests is a thrust area of the Wastelands Development Programme. The States have been advised to prepare area specific projects mainly through natural regeneration and planting of mainly fuelwood and fodder species where natural regeneration is not

possible. Priority is being given to ecologically fragile areas like the Himalayas, Aravallis and the Western Ghats.

Clearance to Irrigation Projects of M.P.

7746. SHRI CHHABIRAMARGAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the reasons for not granting forest clearance for the irrigation projects viz. Chikhalitola, Mauhar, Chakhla and Tirgarh of Madhya Pradesh;

(c) whether Government propose to reconsider their decision; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NILAMANI ROURAY): (a) These irrigation projects have been rejected on merit.

(b) and (c). No proposal for reconsideration of these cases has been received from the State Government.

[Translation]

Service Conditions of Employees Working in C.S.D.

7747. SHRISANTOSH KUMARGANGWAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether C.S.D. Canteens are managed by the Ministry of Defence;

(b) if so, the details of service conditions and rules relating to employees working in these canteens;