WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

National Wasteland Project

*376. DR. DAULATRAO SONUJI AHER: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

 (a) how many States in the country have been selected under the National Wasteland Project for making it "green";

(b) whether any region of Maharashtra State is included therein; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FOR-ESTS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMEN-TATION (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) to (c). The Wastelands Development Programme was launched in 1985 for undertaking wastelands development through afforestation and tree planting and it is being implemented in all States of the country, including Maharashtra.

[Translation]

Poverty Alleviation Schemes

*377. SHRI MITRA SEN YADAV: SHRI R.N. RAKESH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are formulating any new schemes to raise the living standard of people living below the poverty line in the country; and

(b) if so, the details of the schemes and the role of the State Governments in it? THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI VISH-WANATH PRATAP SINGH): (a) and (b). Government is committed to rapid alleviation of poverty in the country. The 'Right to Work' when incorporated as a basic right will ensure minimum incomesto the unemployed poor. During the year 1990-91, a beginning is being made with an Employment Guarantee Scheme for select areas.

The approach to the Eighth Five Year Plan which is being evolved aims at pursuing the following objectives:

- (i) Strengthening the federal structure.
- (ii) Decentralisation of authority.
- (iii) People's participation.
- (iv) Greater bias for the development of the rural sector.
- (v) Sharper focus on women's role in economic activity.
- (vi) Employment.

Details of schemes and the role of the State Governments would be incorporated in the Eighth Five Year Plan document.

[English]

Border Violations

*378. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the places on Indian borders where territorial violations have been made by foreign countries during the last three years; and

(b) the steps taken to contain these violations?