

tary organisations have also been invited to these programmes; and

(d) the steps the Government propose to encourage involvement of voluntary organisations in social forestry schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Afforestation/Tree planting activities which include Social Forestry, are being undertaken under various Central and State Plan Schemes. The progress of the last three years is given below:

1987-88	1989-89 (in million ha.)	(in million ha.)
Target	1.79	2.00
Achievement	1.77	2.12

The target of 1989-90 is 1.71 million ha., which is expected to be achieved.

(c) and (d). Voluntary organizations are already being involved in Social Forestry and Wastelands Development activities. Financial assistance is provided for this purpose under the Grant-in-aid Scheme of the National Wastelands Development Board, which was started in 1985. The Council for Advancement of People's Action and Rural Technology also provides financial support to Voluntary Organizations for rural development activities including social forestry.

Clearance to Deraparai Project

4070. SHRI R. MUTHAIAH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal for forest clearance for a medium irrigation project namely, Deraparai Reservoir in Madurai district has been sent by Government of Tamil Nadu; and

(b) if so, the reasons for delay in giving consent for the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Providing Text Books at Reasonable Rates

4071. SHRI HET RAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have reviewed the price structure of the various text books prescribed in the schools/colleges and universities in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by Government to make the text books available to the students particularly belonging to the weaker sections of society at reasonable prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (PROF. M.G.K. MENON): (a) and (b). Textbooks prescribed for school student are published by the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT), Central Board of Secondary Education, State Boards of Secondary Education, State Government agencies as well as by private publishers. The pricing formulae of most of the Government and semi-Government organisations are reasonable. As regards the school textbooks published by the NCERT, the Government has been reviewing the price structure from time to time. NCERT publications are brought out on a 'No-profit No-loss basis'.

(c) In order that schools textbooks could be produced at reasonable prices, the Government has introduced a new scheme from 1987 under which white printing paper is supplied to the State Government and Union Territory Administrations at concessional rates through M/s Hindustan Paper Corporation, a Government of India Enterprise. Moreover, several States and Union Territories supply school textbooks free of cost to the students at the primary/upper primary stages, particularly to those belonging to the weaker sections of society.

Promotion of Hindi Literature

4072. SHRI HET RAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria for selection of and subsidising the books published in Hindi literature with assistance of Government; and

(b) the steps taken by Government to make the Hindi literature books available to the common man at reasonable prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (PROF. M.G.K. MENON): (a) The Department of Education provides grants-in-aid under a scheme of publication assistance to individuals and organisations for producing and publishing books in Hindi literature. The criteria for selection of, and subsidising, the books are the following:

- Original writing on linguistic, literary (excluding fiction drama and poetry), Indological, social, Anthropological and cultural themes.
- The applicant for assistance shall not be a commercial publisher.
- The applicant should be copyright holder.
- The manuscripts should be considered to be of merit by experts.
- Estimated expenditure should be considered reasonable by agencies designated by the Government for evaluation.
- Grant of assistance should be approved by a Central Grants-in-aid Committee.

(b) Steps taken by Government to make Hindi literature book available to the common man at reasonable prices are:-

- Financial assistance is provided through the National Book Trust to publishers.
- The National Book Trust itself publishes books in Hindi under certain series: Bharat Desh Aur Log, Rashtriya Jivan Charit, Bharat-