

schemes. We will not be in a position—until we get further financial allocation in the Eighth Plan—to take up any other scheme. It is dependent on how much money we get in the next Plan.

SHRI ABDUL SAMAD: The Minister was pleased to state that for the treatment of effluents from tanneries, the Government is giving 35 per cent of the total expenditure. I know fully well that in Vaniyambadi, Tamil Nadu, the tanners have contributed Rs. 25 lakhs for this purpose whereas the Central Government has not contributed a single pie for the completion of the treatment plant.

Will the Minister be pleased to instruct for disbursement of money so that the effluent plant is completed in time?

MR. SPEAKER: The question pertains to Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal.

(Interruptions)

SHRI ABDUL SAMAD: Out of 872 tanneries in the country, 700 tanneries are situated in my constituency. It is causing pollution. That's why I have put this question.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Involvement of Voluntary Organisations in Rural Development Programme

*85. **SHRI SURYA NARAYAN SINGH:** Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal under consideration to adopt a new approach in the Eighth Plan in regard to involvement of voluntary organisations in rural development programmes; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH): (a) and (b). Emphasis on involvement of Voluntary Organisations in Implementation of various schemes relating to Rural Development is expected to be enhanced during the Eighth Five Year Plan period. The details would be incorporated in the Plan document.

UNDP Conference on Environmental Degradation

*86. **SHRI DHARMESH PRASAD VARMA:** Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Conference convened recently by the Executive Director of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) at Nairobi voiced concern at environmental degradation;

(b) if so, whether India also participated in the Conference;

(c) the main subjects discussed and the proposals made by India; and

(d) the decisions arrived at in the Conference?

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI MATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) and (b). The Executive Director, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) had convened an Informal meeting with invited experts from various countries on Funding Mechanisms for the Montreal Protocol and another meeting with invited Ministers on a number of global environmental issues in an informal manner in January, 1990 at Nairobi. India also participated in these meetings.

(c) and (d). A statement is given below.

STATEMENT

The main subjects discussed during both these meetings were:

- i) Development of financial mechanisms for switching over to alternative substances to chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) and other ozone depleting substances under the Montreal Protocol.
- ii) Transfer of technology to developing countries for switching over to alternative substances.
- iii) The organisation of the 1992 conference on environment and Development and strengthening the role of UNEP.
- iv) The negotiating process for a global convention on climate change.

2. The suggestions made by India during both the meetings were related to the development of appropriate financial mechanism for switching over to alternative substances to chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) under the Montreal Protocol, its management and the role of the various bilateral and multilateral aid agencies such as UNEP, UNDP, World Bank in this mechanism. Regarding the transfer of technology to developing countries for switching over to alternative substances to CFCs, India called for access to technology on preferential terms to developing countries.

3. India also suggested to make available to the developing countries cleaner technologies and resources on a large scale to tackle other basic environmental problems which are common to most of the developing countries.

4. The meetings were of informal nature

and no formal decisions were arrived at in the conference.

Social Forestry in Maharashtra Backward Regions

*87. SHRI BABANRAO DHAKANE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to large scale destruction of trees in the backward regions of Maharashtra, there is a need for social forestry on a large scale; and

(b) if so, concrete and time-bound steps proposed to be taken to augment social forestry in the area?

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI-MATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A Statement is given below.

STATEMENT

The Social Forestry Programme under implementation in Maharashtra covers all the districts of the State. During the Seventh Plan period (1985-86 to 1989-90), the total coverage under afforestation/tree planting activities is expected to be 8.7 lakh hectares, as compared to 3.84 lakh hectares in the Sixth Plan (1980-85). Central assistance is being provided under Centrally Sponsored Schemes for raising rural fuelwood plantations and decentralised nurseries. Voluntary agencies are provided grants for activities like nurseries, planting and for creating awareness. In addition, funds are provided under the Rural Employment Programme for promoting Social Forestry.