

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.