

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (DR. RAJENDRA KUMARI BAJPAI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Besides the money provided by the Central Government to the State Government as Special Central Assistance and under Centrally Sponsored Schemes, the 7th Plan for Karnataka State has a provision of Rs. 452.85 crores under Special Component Plan for Scheduled Castes, Rs. 78.69 crores under Tribal Sub-Plan for Scheduled Tribes and Rs. 75.80 crores covering various aspects of welfare and development of Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribe and other backward classes.

The schemes cover many sectors of development including education, agriculture, horticulture, soil conservation, animal husbandry, fisheries, forests, rural development, cooperation, minor irrigation, industries, sericulture, housing, urban development, nutrition, health and family welfare.

Afforestation by private companies

*342. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the private companies are entering in afforestation projects;

(b) if not, the correct position in this regard; and

(c) if so, the reasons for promoting private companies entry in the afforestation projects ?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BHAJAN LAL) : (a) and (b) A few private companies are entering into afforestation projects.

(c) Government are not promoting the entry of private companies into afforestation projects on forest lands.

[Translation]

Decisions of Central Hindi Committee

*343. SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the important decisions taken on 18 September, 1985 by the Central Hindi Committee;

(b) the steps taken so far by Government to implement these decisions ;

(c) whether any efforts have been made by Government to get the status of international language for Hindi in and outside the United Nations just as English, Spanish, French, Russian, Chinese and Arabic; and

(d) if so, the outcome of the efforts ?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (S. BUTA SINGH) : (a) to (b) The Central Hindi Committee in its meeting held in September, 1985, considered various methods for the progressive use of Hindi as the official language of the Union.

2. Some of the important decisions taken by the Committee were :—

As far as practicable Central Government Offices should purchase and install bilingual mechanical and electronic equipments so as to increase their capacity to function bilingually in an economic manner; highest awards should be instituted to encourage the implementation of the Official Language Policy in Central Government Departments and Public Sector Undertakings; the Three Language Formula should be implemented effectively; and as far as possible and practicable Indian Delegations visiting foreign countries should be persuaded to use Hindi in their discussions.

3. In pursuance of these decisions suitable instructions have been issued to