

**Involvement of voluntary Agencies in Afforestation Programmes**

1138. SHRI RAJENDRA AG-  
NIHOTRI:  
SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA  
RAJE:  
SHRI C. SRINIVASAN:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to involve voluntary organisations and local people in afforestation programmes;

(b) if so, the details thereof; including the guidelines issued by Government and achievement made in this regard;

(c) the response of the voluntary organisations and people thereto;

(d) whether as a result of intensive denudation of forests, many botanical species have become extinct; and

(e) if so, the preventive measure taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NILAMANI ROUTRAY):(a) and (b). The policy of the Government is to create a massive people's movement to protect and develop the forests resources of the country. This includes the involvement of voluntary organisations and local people in afforestation and wastelands development. The Government have also issued guidelines on 1st June, 1990 to the State Government which they can adopt to involve the voluntary organisations and local people in the regeneration of degraded forests through allowing the village communities to share in the usufruct and thus become motivated to preserve and protect these areas.

Under the Grants-in-aid Scheme, voluntary organisations are provided financial assistance to undertake projects for afforestation and wastelands development with the cooperation of the local people.

(c) The response of the voluntary organisations and the people in this behalf has been encouraging. During the Seventh Five Year Plan; an amount of Rs. 1629.03 lakhs has been released to various voluntary organisations all over the country under the Grants-in-aid Scheme for taking up 336 projects for afforestation and wastelands development.

(d) A few plant species are reported to have become extinct due to various reasons including denudation of forests.

(e) The following steps have been taken to protect the endangered species of plants:

(i) Trade and commerce in endangered species of plants is regulated under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flore (CITES).

(ii) The Botanical Survey of India (BSI) is cultivating several endangered plant species in their experimental gardens. A scheme for Captive Breeding of Endangered Species of plants have been introduced recently in the BSI.

(iii) Fourteen potential sites have been identified for setting up of Biosphere Reserves to preserve genetic diversity in different representative ecosystems of the country. Out of these, seven Biosphere Reserves have been set up so far.

(iv) A network of 476 National Parks

and Sanctuaries has been set up in the country for the conservation of wild fauna and flora. Endangered plant species are receiving protection in these protected areas.

#### **Admissions in Delhi University**

1139. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI:  
DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY:  
SHRI JANARDAN TIWARI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of students admitted in Delhi University last year;

(b) whether this year a decision has been taken to admit lesser number of students in Delhi University;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) how Government propose to give admission to maximum number of students?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA): (a) The number of students admitted to under-graduate courses of Delhi University in the academic session 1989-90 was 57,591.

(b) to (d). According to the information furnished by the University, 29,076 seats are available in Colleges for regular students, 3510 in the Non-Collegiate Women's Education Board and 22,800 in the School for Correspondence Courses and Continuing Education. In addition, 1868 students who have secured 33% to 40% marks in Class XII examination are eligible for admission to the University as private students. A decision has also been taken to admit upto 20%

students over the sanctioned strength of each College wherever necessary. The University Grants Commission has accepted the proposals of the University of Delhi for introduction of various new courses in a number of Delhi Colleges w.e.f. academic session 1990-91 with total intake capacity of about 875 students. The University of Delhi has informed that in order to meet the growing demand for admission, two new Colleges, one at Karampura in West Delhi with a capacity of 300 seats and the other at Shahdara in East Delhi with a capacity of 180 seats, are to be started by Delhi Administration in the current academic year.

Admissions are still on. However, the University has indicated that it should in a position to absorb practically all the eligible students in the current academic year.

[English]

#### **Presence of Nickel in Consumer Products**

1140. SHRI MANDHATA SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Food Technology Research Institute, Mysore and the Industrial Toxicology Research Centre, Lucknow could detect the unwarranted presence of nickel in a mass consumer product like the Vanaspati oil, if so, the details thereof and if not the reasons therefor;

(b) the justification of keeping them on the Central Committee for Food Standards and whether Government propose to consider the re-organisation of the Committee to safeguard the interests of consumers; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (PROF. M.G.K. MENON): (a) Central