

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT) (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) During 1993-94, 3,54,532 houses have been constructed under Indira Awas Yojana (IAY) in the country, including 2,739 houses constructed in the State of Punjab.

(b) During 1994-95, a target of 2,53,580 houses has been fixed under IAY for the country. The target fixed for Punjab is 4,855 houses.

(c) To achieve these targets an allocation of Rs. 36813.42 lakhs has been made under IAY for the country as a whole. The allocation made for Punjab is Rs. 679.71 lakhs. The first instalment of central assistance has already been released to the States and UTs for this purpose and further funds will be released, depending upon the progress made in utilising the available funds.

#### **Integrated Wasteland Development Project in Andhra Pradesh**

500. SHRI T. VENKATRAM REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have started the Integrated Wasteland Development Project;

(b) if so, the objectives and aims thereof;

(c) the total number of hectares of Wasteland in Andhra Pradesh which have been brought under the green cover during the last three years;

(d) whether the project has received response from the people in protecting and regenerating the forest resources; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF WASTELANDS DEVELOPMENT) (COL. RAM SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government

of India is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme titled "Integrated Wastelands Development Projects Scheme" since 1989-90.

(b) The objectives and aims of the scheme are as follows:

(i) Augmenting the availability of wood and non-wood products, specially fuelwood and fodder.

(ii) Employment generation to the needy sections of society.

(iii) Demonstration of micro-planning methodology.

(iv) Extension and dissemination of proven technologies in various categories of problem lands.

(v) Ensuring people's participation at all stages in the Wastelands Development Programme.

(vi) Checking land degradation.

(vii) Fulfilment of the broader objectives of sustainability and environmental conservation for the general good of the people.

(c) Afforestation/Tree Planning is carried out under point No. 16 of 20-Point Programme over various categories of land including wastelands. Under this programme an area of 1.38 lakhs hectares and distribution of 3896 lakh seedlings have been achieved in Andhra Pradesh during the last three years.

(d) and (e) The Integrated Wastelands Development Projects Scheme envisages formulation and implementation of the projects in consultation with the local people. Therefore most of these projects under the scheme envisage the formation of village level committees for the management of resources generated under these projects. Thus this Scheme envisages a high degree of people's participation but it is difficult to quantify the extent of people's participation.