

area under forests as on 1st July, 1992 has been made. However, as per the State Forest Report 1991 of Forest Survey of India the total recorded forest area in the country is 7,70,078 sq. kms.

(b) No specific assessment of the area of denuded forests and wasteland in the country as on 1st July, 1992 has been made. However, according to one estimate the total area of wastelands in the country was 129.5 million ha. whereas degraded forest area as per State Forest Report 1991 is 38.08 million ha.

(c) The target for afforestation and tree planting for the year 1992-93 under the 20 Point Programme is as follows :—

ending distribution	Area coverage
for planting on private lands)	(on public) and including forest lands)
14,700 lakhs	10,78,000 ha.

Yamuna Action Plan

1364. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR : SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

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

(a) what steps have so far been taken to lay down a Yamuna Action Plan for cleaning and keeping Yamuna water free of pollution; and

(b) the broad features of the plan, if any, worked out and its estimated cost ?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH) : (a) and (b) A scheme of pollution abatement of the river Yamuna is under formulation. Details in this regard are being worked out.

Signatory of the Montreal Protocol

1365. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that India has not so far availed of the assistance of United Nations environment programmes as a signatory to the Montreal Protocol;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) what would be the amount of assistance available to India under the protocol; and

(d) what measures Government propose to take to secure assistance from the United Nations environment programmes, as an administrative agency to oversee the phasing out of Chloro-fluoro Carbons (CFCs) ?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH) : (a) to (d) India joined the Montreal Protocol in June 1992 and the Protocol has come into force for India with effect from 17th September, 1992. Immediately after becoming a Party to the Protocol, proposals for getting financial assistance from the Interim Multilateral Fund under the Montreal Protocol were put forward by India seeking assistance for (i) institutional strengthening and (ii) preparation of projects. These proposals have since been accepted and a total amount of US \$ 543,000 has been sanctioned for the above-mentioned purposes through the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

H-Acid Manufacturers in Gujarat

1366. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of a recent pilot study conducted by Society for Citizen concerns, New Delhi stating that majority of the H-Acid manufacturers in Gujarat are using crude equipment without any protection for workers, environment and ecology; and

(b) whether Government are aware that sludge and effluents from these plants are being dumped on the roadsides or in the streams destroying fish ?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH) : (a) Government are not aware of any pilot study conducted by Society for Citizen concerns, New Delhi on the subject mentioned.

(b) According to the information received from the Gujarat Pollution Control Board, the majority of the H-Acid manu-