

quality of the river water in the towns where the schemes have been completed.

237. [Transferred to the 4th December, 1992]

Growth of forests

238. SHRI S.S. SURJEWALA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of India in conjunction with the respective State Governments have been able to achieve the targets fixed for the growth of forests during the Seventh Five Year Plan and if not, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether it is a fact that eucalyptus tree required the maximum amount of water for its growth and survival and crops cannot be grown in about 10-15 feet from a eucalyptus tree;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the cultivation of eucalyptus trees were promoted by the Forest Department during the 6th and 7th Five year Plans and handsome return was promised;

(d) whether it is also a fact that cultivation of eucalyptus has caused serious loss both in terms of damage to the crops as well as in term of money both to the State and the individual cultivator; and

(e) the steps taken by Government to compensate this loss to the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) The targets for the afforestation/tree planting activities are fixed on a year to year basis depending on the availability of funds in the Central/State Plans. An area of 8.8 million hectares as achieved during the Seventh Five Year Plan as against the target of 8.6 million hectares. The yearwise and statewide targets and achievements are given in Annexure. [See Appendix ccxv, Annexure No. 5].

(b) It is not a fact that compared to other trees eucalyptus trees require extra water for growth and survival. It is also

not a fact that nothing can be grown under eucalyptus trees.

(c) to (e) Forest Departments of some States had taken up planting of eucalyptus trees during the earlier Five Year Plans. Large number of eucalyptus seedlings were produced in nurseries to meet the widespread demand of individual tree growers and farmers who expected very high returns from activity. In some of the states such a large scale plantation of eucalyptus trees by individuals resulted in abundant supply of eucalyptus wood in the market which tended to reduce the returns. However, the plantations were taken up by individuals on own initiative without any firm tie up with user agencies and, therefore, question of loss or compensation therefor does not arise.

Recommendations of the Committee to suggest on incentive package

239. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 3823 given in the Rajya Sabha on 12th August, 1992 and State:

(a) whether Government have since discussed with the State Government of the recommendations of the Committee constituted to suggest incentive package for shifting the Lime kilns from Dchra dun to Beharigarh in Saharanpur, District;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what decision Government have taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) and (b) The views of the State government on the suggestions made in the report were requested. They are awaited.

(c) Does not arise.