

sions should be motivated to identify themselves with the protection and development of forests from which they derive benefits. A Wasteland Development programme has been launched to augment the production of biomass and relieve biotic pressures upon the forests.

Civil Supplies System in the country

95. SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state;

(a) whether Government have taken any steps to improve and to have the best civil supplies system in the country; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI NATHU RAM MIRDA): (a) and (b) For a good Civil Supplies System in a mixed economy like ours both public and private sectors have to play their roles, under a regime of regulations designed to secure optimal production of consumer goods and their equitable distribution. Public Distribution System (PDS) plays a crucial part to ensure a minimum availability of important essential commodities of daily use at reasonable prices to the public, particularly the vulnerable sections, and to influence market conditions including prices of these articles.

Steps are taken to improve the Public Distribution System on a continual basis. States and U.Ts have been advised from time to time to increase commodity coverage under the Public Distribution System; evolve an effective coordination among the various agencies involved; set up consumer advisory vigilance committees at various levels; improve the viability of the fair price shops and open new ones wherever necessary; introduce mobile shops for supply of essential commodities in remote areas etc. The States and U.Ts have also been advised to tighten the en-

forcement measures under the Essential Commodities Act and similar other legislations.

New initiatives for Ocean Development

96. SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state: what are the details of the new initiatives and measures being considered by Government for Ocean Development?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (PROF. M. G. K. MENON): The new initiatives and measures under consideration for ocean development activities include: (1) identification and formulation of research programmes to provide real time picture of the current and evolving state of the physico-chemical regimes of the ocean required for environmental protection and resource exploration, using space data and predictive models; (2) scientific experiments designed to provide clues to the process of global change and insights for making environmental impact assessments; (3) exploration of deep seabed mine site in the Central Indian Ocean using sophisticated techniques; (4) launching of research and development programmes to establish the techno-economic viability of deep seabed mining; (5) acceleration of specific programmes of economic importance such as harnessing of wave energy, exploration of living resources, drugs from the sea and protection of coastal and offshore environment; (6) acquisition and development of indigenous technology in instrumentation; (7) systematic monitoring and modelling of ocean pollution regimes and (8) development of data and knowledge base as well as skills for Island development.

Protection of environment and forests in the country

97. SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state what steps are

being considered to improve environment and to protect forests from destruction in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SMT. MANEKA GANDHI): The Government has taken a number of steps as given below to improve the environment and to protect forests:

1. Schemes for soil conservation, waste land development, protection of watershed areas, desert development, hill development and reclamation of saline and alkaline areas.
2. Schemes for conservation of both ground and surface water, flood control, prevention and control of water pollution through implementation of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and cleaning up the river Ganga under the Ganga Action Plan.
3. Prevention and control of air pollution through the implementation of the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 and the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.
4. Survey and identification of critical areas in flora, fauna and forests through the Botanical, Zoological and Forests Surveys of India.
5. Protection of forests through the implementation of the Indian Forest Act, 1927 and the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, development of non-conventional energy sources and schemes for substitution of wood.
6. Afforestation Programmes.
7. Preservation of critical eco-systems and protection of wild life through 69 National Parks and 397 Sanctuaries and through implementation of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

8. Action programmes for marine eco-systems, wetlands and mangroves.
9. Formulation of policy and strengthening of legislation for environment and forestry.
10. Promotion of research, education, and training in environmental and forestry subjects.
11. Creation of environmental awareness.

Changes in the composition of the Planning Commission

98. SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to have some changes in the composition of the Planning Commission in order to have a better plan for the progress of the country; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH):

(a) and (b) The Planning Commission has been reconstituted with a new Deputy Chairman and nine new Members. A copy of the Notification appointing the Members is attached. (See below)

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

Cabinet Secretariat (Mantrimandal Sachivalaya)

Rashtrapati Bhavan

New Delhi dated the 22nd December, 89

Notification

No. A. 12031/1/89-Ad. I The President is pleased to appoint the following as full-time Members of the Planning Commission with immediate effect:

1. Dr. J. D. Sethi
2. Dr. Rajni Kothari
3. Shri L. C. Jain
4. Smt. Ela Bhat
5. Dr. Arun Ghosh
6. Dr. A. Vaidyanathan