

(c) the names of the States where social forestry programmes have been implemented for removal of poverty, and

(d) the details of the achievements made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI VIR SEN): (a) to (c) The Social Forestry programme primarily aims at augmenting production of fuelwood, fodder and small timber.

It also generates employment and thereby benefits the poor. The programme is being implemented in the States and Union Territories.

(d) The details of achievement in block plantation are:

Area Planted in million hectares	
1951-80	1.43
1980-85	1.65

In addition during the period 1980-85, 3785.4 million seedlings were distributed to farmers for planting on their land. This is equivalent to an area of 1.89 million hectares planted.

Elephant Reserve Project at Chianaaka Bhubaneswar

1231. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to set up an Elephant Reserve Project at Chandrika near Bhubaneswar;

(b) if so, the cost of the project.

(c) the amount of central assistance sought by the Orissa Government in this regard; and

(d) the amount given by the Centre to the Orissa Government for the Project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI VIR SEN): (a) The State Government of Orissa have estab-

lished a Sanctuary at Chandaka in December, 1982 for the protection of wild animals, specially elephants.

(b) and (c) While the estimated cost of the establishment of the sanctuary is not known, the State Government sought an amount of Rs. 567.50 lakhs by way of central assistance.

(d) Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for the assistance to National Parks and Sanctuaries, an amount of Rs. 16 lakhs has been approved for the year 1984-85 on essential items in the proposal of the State Government. Central share of Rs. 8 lakhs has been released already to the State Government.

Denudation of forests (due to mining operations)

HSFJ, SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state;

(a) whether Government have made assessment of the impact of mining operation on Forest land;

(b) if so, what extent forest wealth has been denuded in the various States as a result of mining operation; and

(c) the measures taken by this department for the protection of forests from destruction by mining operation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI VIR SEN): (a) to (c) An in-depth impact assessment of mining operations on forest lands for the whole country is not available. With the enforcement of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, with effect from 25-10-1980 diversion of any forest land for non-forest use requires prior approval of the Central Government. Before giving such approval, each proposal is examined carefully and necessary safeguards are prescribed to minimise if not prevent damage to forests. In the case of mining projects, it is laid down, that the area should be restored and replanted after mining is over. In addition, compensatory afforestation is insisted on at the cost of the mining project.