

State/Union Territory	Area deforested/ diverted for non- forestry uses during 1977-78 to 1979-80	Area afforested under various schemes during 1977-78 to 1979-80
<i>Union Territories :</i>		
23. A & N Islands	1,971	748
24. Arunachal Pradesh	114	5,595
25. Dadra & Nagar Haveli	399	1,444 + 36
26. Delhi	—	—
27. Goa, Daman & Diu	411	3,049
28. Mizoram	—	4,512
ALL INDIA	67,005	870,583 + 79,582

Annexure II

Forest Area as percentage to total geographical area during 1977-78—State-wise.

Sl. No.	State/Union Territory	Forest Area as % age to Geographical area.
<i>States</i>		
1.	Andhra Pradesh	23.25
2.	Assam	39.24
3.	Bihar	16.84
4.	Gujarat	9.99
5.	Haryana	3.30
6.	Himachal Pradesh	39.11
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	9.47
8.	Karnataka	19.59
9.	Kerala	29.15
10.	Madhya Pradesh	36.67
11.	Maharashtra	21.67
12.	Manipur	26.92
13.	Meghalaya	28.32
14.	Nagaland	17.48
15.	Orissa	43.61
16.	Punjab	4.09
17.	Rajasthan	10.11
18.	Sikkim	38.63

Sl. No.	State/Union Territory	Forest Area as percentage to Geographical area
19.	Tamil Nadu	17.33
20.	Tripura	57.53
21.	Uttar Pradesh	17.24
22.	West Bengal	13.47
<i>Union Territories</i>		
23.	A & N Islands	90.00
24.	Arunachal Pradesh	61.67
25.	D & N Haveli	40.82
26.	Delhi	2.68
27.	Goa, Daman & Diu	34.38
28.	Mizoram	33.81
ALL INDIA		22.74

Subsidy on agriculture inputs utilised by marginal farmers

734. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what steps have been taken to ensure that the increased price of fertilisers will not affect the agricultural production and consequential price rise of agricultural commodities;

(b) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to subsidise agriculture inputs required particularly by marginal farmers; and

(c) whether there is any scheme for shifting the extra hands of rural poor engaged at present, in agriculture on economic holdings, and if so, what progress has been made in the matter so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): (a) The Government have taken the following steps to reduce the impact of recent increase in prices of fertilisers:—

(i) The Agricultural Prices Commission have been asked to re-work the support prices of crops beginning from Kharif, 1980 season after taking into consideration the recent increase in the prices of fertilisers. They have since submitted their supplementary report. Their recommendations for the prices of paddy and coarse cereals, like, jowar, bazra, maize and ragi have been discussed in the recent Conference of the Chief Ministers held on 27th July, 1980. The Government will take decision in this regard shortly;

(ii) The existing subsidy on fertilisers to small and marginal farmers in drought affected areas would continue during the current financial year;

(iii) Reserve Bank of India have been requested to ensure adequate credit to farmers and to distribution agencies. They have since issued instructions to all Cooperatives and Scheduled Commercial Banks accordingly;

(iv) Fertilisers will henceforth be delivered at the block headquarters instead of rail heads. The additional transportation cost will be borne by the Government of India; and

(v) The availability of the short-term credit given by the Government of India has been doubled for the current Kharif season.

In the context of the above steps taken by the Government, increased prices of fertilisers may not affect agricultural production of the country.

(b) Under the special programme of Small farmers Development Agency/Integrated Rural Development, etc., the small and marginal farmers are provided subsidy for the purchase of phosphatic and potassic fertilisers. The rate of subsidy is 25 per cent and 33-1/3 per cent in case of small and marginal farmers respectively. For those belonging to scheduled tribes out of the above categories, the subsidy is 50 per cent. Under the demonstration programme of the SFDA and IRD, inputs, like seed, fertilisers including nitrogenous fertilisers, pesticides etc. are subsidised @ Rs. 200/- per 1/2 acre demonstration.

In addition, the existing subsidy to the small and marginal farmers on agricultural inputs in drought affected areas will continue during the current year.

(c) No, Sir.

Housing facilities to artists

735. PROF. RAMLAL PARIKH: Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government provide housing facilities to amateur artists;

(b) if so, on what basis this facility is granted;

(c) what are the names of artists and details of the houses allotted to them alongwith rent charged from them so far;