

and percentage of increase or decrease of import price of urea are given below:—

Year	Average C & F Price US \$/PMT	Imports (LMT)	Percentage increase or decrease in price of imported urea over previous year
2000-01	131.18	—	—
2001-02	106.50	2.20	(-) 18.81
2002-03	132.22	—	24.15
2003-04 (upto Nov.)	171.02	—	29.35

(d) The price variation in the international market has no impact, as India has hardly imported urea in the recent past on Government account because the country has achieved near self-sufficiency in production capacity of urea. However, the selling price/maximum retail price (MRP) of urea is fixed/notified by the Government, which is applicable uniformly all over the country to the farmers.

Electricity from bio-waste

1128.PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of press reports that bio-waste has been used to generate electricity in Kovalam, Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government would help NGOs and other organisations who are ahead in using bio-waste to generate electricity?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) As per the information given by Kerala State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB), a project on "Zero Waste Kovalam" to keep Kovalam beach clean and tidy is being implemented by a Non-Governmental Organization called, Thanal" with the financial assistance from the Tourism Department of the Government of Kerala. Biogas plant based on the organic waste generated from the hotels and the tourist centres for producing electricity is a part of this project.

(c) Government through the Ministry of Non-conventional Energy Sources has launched a national programme on energy recovery from

urban and industrial waste where assistance is provided for setting up projects for recovery of energy from urban and industrial wastes. The scheme is applicable to both private as well as public sector entrepreneurs and organisations as well as Non-Governmental Organizations.

Integrated Forests Protection Scheme to increase forest cover

1129. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government have formulated an Integrated Forests Protection Scheme to increase forest cover in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the targets fixed for afforestation in Ninth Five Year Plan have been achieved;
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (e) what target has been fixed for forest cover in Tenth Plan period; and
- (f) the measures to be adopted to achieve it?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU):

(a) and (b) An Integrated Forests Protection Scheme (IFPS) has been formulated in the Tenth Plan with the basic objective to protect the existing forests. An outlay of Rs. 445 crores has been provided in Tenth Five Year Plan to provide financial assistance for various activities related to forest protection, forest fire control, survey and demarcation of forest boundaries, etc.

(c) and (d) Against a target of 674919 ha. an area of 539346 ha. has been achieved during Ninth Five Year Plan. The achievement has been commensurate with the financial assistance provided to the State.

(e) As per the targets set by the Planning Commission, 25% of the geographical area of the country has to be brought under forest and tree cover by the end of Tenth Plan.

(f) Consultations have been held with the State Governments, Research and Development Institutions, Non-Governmental Organizations