

INTENSIFICATION OF FORESTRY PRODUCTION THROUGH "AREA SELECTION"*

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IT IS BY NOW quite clear that our country may well be confronted with an acute shortage of industrial wood unless far-reaching steps are taken to expedite the increase in its production. Two Reports^{1,2} by experts of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations as well as the estimates made in the Fourth Five-Year Plan for the country speak of the probable shortages. As against the current production of eight million cubic metres of industrial wood per year, the requirement has been estimated to increase to about 17 million cubic metres by 1970-71 and 24 million cubic metres by 1975-76.³ Even with improvements in logging techniques and after clearing some of the old untapped forest areas, it is estimated that with the current methods of management the production may not exceed 10 million cubic metres per year in the ensuing years.

2. Proposals have been made in the Fourth Five-Year Plan to overcome this shortage through the adoption of three important steps for the purpose. These envisage (a) the planting of quick-growing species,⁴ (b) the planting of other economic species,⁵ and (c) planting under the scheme for rehabilitation of the degraded forests. The plan recognizes that these steps would not appreciably effect the

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¹ Report to the Government of India on *Integration of Forests and Forest Industries* — J. A. von Monroy, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, p. 6.

² Report to the Government of India on *Expansion of plantation forestry*— Eric Lundqvist, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, p. V.

³ *Fourth Five-Year Plan — A draft outline*, Planning Commission, Government of India, p. 205.

⁴ Various species of Eucalyptus and Pinus.

⁵ Species of Acacia, Boswellia, Cassia, Pinus, Albizzia, Grevillia, Ailanthus, Bombax, and such others.