

(b) It has not been possible to ascertain the dates or periods on the basis of carbon-14 determination. However, these types of Megalithic burials in Kerala are generally dated between first century B.C. and first century A.D.

(c) Five varieties of burials viz., Umbrella-stone, Topikals, Multiple Hood-Stone, stone circle and unhewn granite slab capstone types have been excavated yielding pottery, in the shapes of jars, bowls and vases in coarse Red Ware and Russet-Coated painted Ware and antiquities like beads, copper bowls, iron objects and tiny pieces of gold. These excavations throw light on the burial practices of the people of ancient Kerala around the beginning of the Christian era.

[*Translation*]

#### **Decrease in Forest Area in Bihar.**

3075. SHRI RAMESHWAR PRASAD: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the extent of decrease in the forest area in Bihar during the last three years;

(b) whether environment is being affected or likely to be affected due to this; and

(c) if so, the action proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) Forest Survey of India has published a state of Forest Report for the country based on visual interpretation of Landsat imageries for 1985-87. They had earlier published an assessment of forest cover based on the space data of the period of 1981-83. Com-

paring the two sets of data it is seen that forest cover in Bihar has decreased by 1814 Sq. Kms.

(b) The percentage of forest cover in Bihar is only 15.49% as against 33% envisaged in the National Forest Policy. The further reduction in forest cover is bound to have a deleterious effect on the environment.

(c) Government proposes to increase the forest/tree cover through massive afforestation or social forestry programmes specially on all denuded, degraded or unproductive lands. An area of 4.73 lakh hectares has been planted during the period 1986-87 to 1988-89 in Bihar state under the 20 Point Programme.

#### **Species Disappearing in Rajasthan**

3076. SHRI NANDLAL MEENA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of species of wild animals in Rajasthan, and the names of the species which are disappearing; and

(b) the measures adopted by Government to protect these species?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) and (b). Information is being collected from the State Government and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[*English*]

#### **Export of Zircalloy to Pakistan**

3077. SHRISANTOSH KUMARGANGWAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state: