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171. United Arab Emirates.
172. United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.
173. United Republic of Tanzania Tanzania.
174. United States of America.
175. Uruguay.
176. Vanuatu.
177. Venezuela
178. Viet Nam.
179. Yeman.
180. Yugoslavia.
181. Zaire.
182. Zambia
183. Zimbabwe.
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[*Translation*]

SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, today the world is dividing into two parts i.e. developing countries and developed countries. That is what we observed in Rio. Then there are people of the third world who claim to be environmentalist. Were any environmentalists from India present at Rio in Brazil? They held a press conference and opposed the development projects, Narmada Valley Project and several other projects of India. Later on, it was mentioned in the report of the Committee that the Government of India should feel concerned about Narmada Valley Project. What will be your policy regarding atomic energy projects or other projects which, though aimed at development, invalue environmental problem?

SHRI KAMAL NATH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, various non-Governmental organisations participated in the conference at Rio de Janeiro. They were there on their own and sweet will. Along with the official conference an unofficial conference was also held. As far as I know, all of them participated in that contravene and expressed their views. So long as the question of the policy of our country is concerned, we gave priority to poverty and development and on their very platform, we said that environment will also be from the same platform.

[*English*]

It shall not be devoid of the issues of poverty and development.

[*Translation*]

We will make our development plans without any obstacle, keeping in view the protection of the environment and safeguarding the improvement of the environment. Such is our policy.

SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, will the hon. Minister reply my question.

[*English*]

the countries which have signed this report and those which have refused to sign.

[*Translation*]

You have not given a clear reply and you did not mention the names of the countries who were signatories to it. In the reply, the hon. Minister has given a list also. America is dominating there. The countries where the problem of cutting hard core woods or other problems do not arise, have tried to establish their dominance in this Rio Conference. May

I know your reaction to it, did America sign it and the number of the countries which did not sign it?

[*English*]

SHRI KAMAL NATH: There were two specific conventions which were signed in Rio Janerio: One was the Climate Change Convention and the Bio-Diversity Convention; also was the Rio Declaration and adoption of Agenda 21. Where Climate Change Convention and the Rio Declaration Agenda 21 are concerned, these were signed by all countries. However, the Bio-Diversity Convention was not signed by the United States; and United States was the only country in the world which has not signed the Bio-Diversity Convention. All other developed countries went ahead and signed it.

[*Translation*]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, first of all I would like to congratulate my friend Mr. Kamle Nath for presenting our stand firmly in the Earth Summit and succeeding in getting the support of all the developing countries. The question is, what is the definition of sustainable growth or sustainable development? A question related to "Sustainable", is that if the environment is facing destruction rich countries are responsible for it. The rich countries had decided to contribute .07 per cent G.N.P. for developmental assistance but even that target has not been completed as yet. Wherefrom will the funds be provided for improvement of environment and whether the developed countries have assured that they will not take any such adverse steps against environment which might have an adverse effect on the whole world. Improvement in environment will be possible only when the affluent countries are ready to reduce their expenses otherwise how it will be improved and from which sources funds

would be raised to improve the environment especially in the developing countries?

[*English*]

SHRI KAMAL NATH: The question is what leads to sustainable development. "Sustainable development" has been defined as that development which does not take out from nature more than what it is possible to put back in to it and it includes protection of the nature so that the future generations are not deprived of the resources available and resources are available consistently.

The hon. Member has asked whether developed countries would be taking steps to contain their own environmental degradation. One of the points which we from India very emphatically made was that the current environmental degradation in the world is caused by the patterns of development of the developed countries and the developed countries have reached their levels of growth, their levels of development only by the environment destruction which is leading to this great problem today. It was our viewpoint that they must plough back a little bit of their prosperity attained in the process of this development towards correction of the environmental degradation which has taken place.

The hon. Member is very correct that .7 per cent of the GNP has been talked about for a long time. It has not been attained except by some of the Nordic countries. However, there was this time in Rio a re-affirmation of a pledge at the highest, level, at the level of the Heads of State and the Heads of Government, that they shall try and attain .7 per cent of the GNP, as soon as possible, and for the first time ever, the Overseas Development Assistance is going to be subjected to monitoring by a Commission of Sustainable Development, to be set up by the United Nations. This .7 per cent of

the GNP would amount to approximately \$ 125 billion per year of the Diverseas Development Assistance.

DR DEBI PROSAD PAL: I must also congratulate Shri Kamal Nath for taking a leading role in the Conference at Rio de Janeiro. The International Law Commission has also got as one of the agenda items which is also a very important one, environmental pollution and they are also recommending certain codification of the laws which are to be adopted by the different nations for preventing this environmental pollution.

I want to know from the hon. Minister whether these recommendations of the International Law Commission became the subject matter of discussion in the Rio Conference. If not, what is the attitude taken by our country regarding the recommendations that are to be adopted in our country as well?

SHRI KAMAL NATH: The specific matters with regard to amendment, in the laws or for bringing in legislation to meet the recommendations of the various Conventions signed will be taken up at the stage of the Protocol which shall flow from these Conventions. So, this is a matter which we are currently engaged in. We in India have also to bring some legislation arising out of what happened in Rio, in terms of the Rio Declaration, Agenda-21, the Global Change Convention and the Biodiversity Convention. So, We are currently engaged in that exercise, to have a look as to what is required to be done.

SHRIMATI MALINI BHATTACHARYA: In the preparatory stages of the Rio Summit one of the most hotly debated issues was the issue of GEF, the Global Environmental Facility, the funding mechanism, which is in the thumb of the World Bank and therefore reflects the interests of the developed countries rather than those of the developing countries. While we all thank the Minister for Environment for upholding the interests of

the developing countries at the Rio Summit, I also would like to know from him whether the answer that he has given to part (e) of the question, namely, "the Rio Declaration does not provide for setting up of any specific funding mechanism," means that even after the Rio Summit the GEF still remains the major funding mechanism for environmental improvement.

SHRI KAMAL NATH: The Global Environmental Facility, the GEF, as it is commonly known, is a Fund which was set up earlier. We are also subscribers to that Fund. And it was our viewpoint that this Fund should be democratically administered, should not have a donor bias. This Fund is administered by the World Bank. And our position all along was that there is too much of a donor bias, that is the developed countries have too much control on this Fund... (*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI MALINI BHATTACHARYA: I want to know there has been any change in that.

SHRI KAMAL NATH: It was agreed that the Fund shall be democratically administered. It was agreed that the Fund will be made transparent. It was agreed that this Fund shall also after such changes, after democratisation, after being made transparent will again remain to be only an interim measure for three years to see if the steps taken for reform are adequate. So, the apprehensions of the hon. Member have been taken into account. These apprehensions have been shared by all of us and these have been allayed and we have been able to correct these.

SHRI VIJAY NAVAL PATIL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Department of Environment is comparatively new like Human Resources Department, Food Processing Department. I want to know from the Minister, what will be the direct impact of this Rio

Conference on the day to day activity of this Department. Last year we had implemented many schemes like environment awareness campaign. I would like to know from the Minister whether he is going to get more funds as the Prime Minister had himself attended the Conference. What new schemes is he bringing in to create awareness about environment in our country and ecological protection?

SHRI KAMAL NATH: Sir, the route from Rio would encompass many things. Besides encompassing additional funds flow, it would entail greater responsibility on our part because now it has been established that certain aspects of environmental degradation are global whereas our action has to be local.

Sir, to the extent where further funds flow will be required, this shall entail us formulating schemes. A specific example is, we have signed the Convention on Biodiversity. Sir, now bio-diversity, in terms of the future, would help us to get more funds for preserving our bio-diversity, which we are in any case doing out of our own funds, whether it is a national park or whether it is a sanctuary or whether it is an ecological development project around sanctuaries and national parks.

With regard to forests, forests have assumed great importance in terms of the global environmental calamity. I envisage greater, much greater, bilateral and multi-lateral assistance in the future, which will now put us into motion for setting up, for formulating, new projects.

[*Translation*]

SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, is it a fact that the American Government tried from the very beginning to sabotage this conference and is it also a fact

that the developed countries are interfering in the development plans of the developing countries such as the Narmada Sagar Project?

SHRI KAMAL NATH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, sabotage has nothing to do with it. America has its own views and opinions. The result of such views has been that United States was isolated in the Biodiversity Convention. All the countries of the world signed it. It is their view but everybody is ruling out any sabotage in it?

[*English*]

SHRI RAM KAPSE: There is an effort on the part of developed nations to see to it that polluting industries are installed in under-developed countries. I would like to know from the Minister, while taking into consideration our development, what precautions the Government would take to see to it that there is no pollution in India itself.

SHRI KAMAL NATH: Sir, the hon. Member is very right. Certain countries have harmed the production of certain things in their countries, but have not banned the usage, so that the production of these items which are either hazardous, toxic or polluting in various ways is done in developing countries. The very fact that they have not banned the usage of it shows that implicitly, we are aware of this. We are seeing which are the kind of industries. The powers available to the Government under the Environment Protection Act are adequate and we have also issued draft notification to this effect that we would do impact assessment before site clearance is done. The most important aspect which I would like to tell the hon. Member is the question of site clearance. It is not a question of approval of a project, but a question of a particular site, to have a particular project. We are in the process of looking into this matter.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, In Rio all the developed and developing countries have stressed with one voice the fact that the environment of the whole world, specially in the developing countries is being polluted due to the toxic industries, chemical industries and many other polluting industries. Today the developed countries are not ready to set up these industries in their own country and those multi-national corporations and developed countries are setting up these industries in the developing countries. This problem has emerged during the last 20-25 years, that is why a serious situation has emerged not only on the earth but also in the sea, and the environment has become grim. Various fatal diseases like cancer, T. B. and other viral diseases are spreading due to polluted environment. The question is not that the developed countries will give 7% of their income but have they reached an agreement on the pattern of development, the factories they are going to set up and the industries they set up. Has it been decided that more attention would be paid to it in future? (Interruptions) Do you mean to say let the diseases spread let the environment be polluted, only then the Government will spend money. Has any machinery been developed for that? Has any time bound programme been chalked out? I would like to know whether the Central Government wants to further expand this work?

SHRI KAMAL NATH: Sir, as far as the movement and the dumping of hazardous waste are concerned, there is the Bagal Convention for it, to which our country is also a signatory. Regarding the question of entry of the multi-nationals and setting up of hazardous or toxic industries we have our own Environment Protection Act, which gives us Powers to prevent them from doing so. We have enquired, studied and examined it and on that basis we have issued a draft notifica-

tion so that we can have control on the industries which are causing pollution.

SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV: I did not ask about India alone, I wanted to know about the deliberations of all the developed countries at the Rio Conference, to which the hon. Minister did not give any reply. (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: We will discuss it later.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV: My question should be replied. It is quite strange that I am asking one thing and something else is said in reply.

SHRI RABI RAY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Sir, both I and the whole House desire to know the reasons from the hon. Minister, Shri Kamal Nath, who stayed on in Rio de Janeiro for more than 10 days to participate in the recently Concluded Earth Summit held there, for the United States President's refusal to sign the Biodiversity agreement. In addition to it, we also want to know from the hon. Minister the kind of pressure put on Shri Bush and the American delegation by the developing countries to which India lead in such summits, despite which the U.S. President did not sign the agreement. In view of the United States refusal to sign the agreement what is the course left before the developing countries to persuade that country to sign the agreement in future.

SHRI KAMAL NATH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it was debated upon in length in Rio de Janeiro and the issue was also discussed in detail with the representative of USA present at the Summit. United States' allies like United Kingdom, Japan, Germany and France were also contacted to persuade USA not to toe independent line of thinking but of no avail