

LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Monday, August 5, 1991/Sravana
14, 1913 (Saka)

*The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the
Clock*

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[*Translation*]

Katraniya Ghat Forest Division of Bahraich

*286. SHRI LAKSHMI NARAIN MANI TRIPATHI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Katraniya Ghat Forest Division of Bahraich district, Uttar Pradesh is a famous wild-life sanctuary;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government propose to ban the plying of buses, trucks and trains through this forest zone; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) The Kataraniya Wildlife Sanctuary is an important sanctuary containing a number of species of wildlife, situated in the West Bahraich Forest Division, Bahraich district, Uttar Pradesh.

(b) and (c) The management and control of a sanctuary vest with the concerned State Government. It has been reported that it is not possible to ban the plying of buses, trucks and trains through the above sanctuary as it would cause hardship to the people living in the area.

[*Translation*]

SHRI LAKSHMI NARAIN MANI TRIPATHI: Will the hon. Minister be pleased to state that the Geruvali river, originating from Nepal and which has been flowing through the Katraniya ghat Forest Division bringing pebbles of Shingil Stone with its water and thousands of men and women of Tharu tribe living in the forests in an area of 500 metres in length near Katiyaragodhi on the banks of the river and quite adjacent to the border of Nepal, have been picking up pebbles from the river bed for the last 30 years.

MR. SPEAKER: Are you reading out?

SHRI LAKSHMI NARAIN MANI TRIPATHI: Sir, the question is.

MR. SPEAKER: You cannot read out.

SHRI LAKSHMI NARAIN MANI TRIPATHI: Thousands of tribal people earned their livelihood from the bed of the river Geruvaferi but picking of pebbles has been banned now on the plea that the plying of trucks in this area creates disturbance in the animal habitat. Since it has been banned by the Ministry of Environment, may I know whether the Government propose to withdraw it.

SHRI KAMAL NATH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, anything concerning the sanctuary is the responsibility of the state. If my Ministry has stopped it in this area after taking some interest in it, I will definitely look into the matter and find out any possible solution.

SHRI LAKSHMI NARAIN MANI TRIPATHI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Forest Division of Uttar Pradesh had sent the file for his approval. I am sorry to say that since the personal interest of an officer from his Ministry was not served, he put a ban on it taking the plea that it disturbed the habitat and rejected the plea of the state and returned the file. Will the hon. Minister be pleased to look into this matter?

SHRI KAMAL NATH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank the hon. Member for giving me this information. I would look into the matter, and if he has any further information in the matter, he may pass it on to me and I will certainly look into it.

SHRI LAKSHMI NARAIN MANI TRIPATHI: Thank you.

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Because you are "Kamal" (Lotus).

SHRI KAMAL NATH: It is your election symbol.

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: That is why I am saying this.

[English]

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: His voice has been polluted.

Clearance of Subarnarekha and Tehri Dam Projects

*287. **SHRI SUDHIR GIRI:** Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have cleared the Subarnarekha and Tehri Dam Projects from forest and environmental angles;

(b) if not, the reasons for delay; and

(c) the steps taken to clear these projects expeditiously?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) to (c) The Tehri Dam Project has been accorded clearance from environmental and forestry angles subject to compliance with stipulated conditions and safeguards. The Subarnarekha Project was, however, approved only from environmental angle in June, 1984 but the proposal for diversion of forest land stands rejected for non-furnishing of requisite details by the State Government.

SHRI SUDHIR GIRI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it has been pointed out by some Seismological experts of India and outside that the Tehri Project is risky from the angle of the possibility of earthquake occurrence in the area. The Earthquake Engineers and Seismic experts are of different views in regard to the volume of energy release due to the possibility of Earthquake.

In view of this position, may I know from the hon. Minister the following:

(a) whether the Ministry has got any estimate done by its En-