

for regularisation of forest lands in States;

(b) if so, the details of the clarifications submitted by the States;

(c) the action taken by the Union Government in this regard;

(d) the total hectares of forest lands in Kerala and Madhya Pradesh which were regularised by his Ministry during the last two years;

(e) whether the State Governments have provided alternative lands for the forest lands thus roegularised; and

(f) if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) to (c): Proposal of Kerala State Government for regularisation of encroachments under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 over 28,588.159 ha. forest land in the State has been approved in principle in March 1993 and the State Government has been requested to fulfil certain conditions stipulated by the Ministry. For Madhya Pradesh, diversion of 1.03 lakh ha. forest land has already been approved under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for regularisation of encroachments in the State. No other formal proposal under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 has been received from the State Government of Madhya Pradesh for regularisation of encroachments over the forest land in the State.

(d) Approval in principle has been accorded to the proposal of the State Government of Kerala for regularisation of encroachments over 28,588.159 ha. forest

land in the State. For regularisation of encroachments over forest land, no approval under the Forest (Conservation) Act., 1980 has been accorded for Madhya Pradesh during last two years.

(e) and (f) Kerala State Government has proposed to carry out compensatory afforestation over degraded forest land twice ijn extent to the forest area to be regularised. The State Government has informed that non-forest land for compensatory afforestation is not available in the State.

Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980

920.SHRI ARVIND TRIVEDI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of representations and the Sarkaria Commission recommendations and decision has been taken to delegate powers to States under the Forest (Conservation) Act 1980; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) No Sir.

(b) No decision has been taken on the Sarkaria Commission recommendations so far. However, after discussing the issue in various fora, it was decided to further decentralise and streamline examination of proposals under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. Accordingly, Forest (Conservation) Rules, 1981 have been suitably amended on 21.5.1992 and revised consolidated guidelines issued on

25.10.1992 which *interalia* include delegation of powers to Regional Chief Conservator of Forests to finally decide proposals involving diversion of forest land upto 5 ha. excluding proposals in respect of regularisation of encroachments and mining and initial examination of all proposals involving diversion of forest land upto 20 ha.

[Translation]

Agreement with Germany for Pollution Control

921. SHRI CHETAN P.S. CHAUHAN:
SHRIMATI KRISHNENDRA KAUR DEEPA:

Will the Minister ofg ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any agreement has been entered into with a German Company for manufacturing of catalytic converts, which can check the pollution emitted with smoke from vehicles;

(b) if so, the main features of the agreement;

(c) the date, from which the aforesaid agreement is likely to be effective; and

(d) the extent to which this catalytic converts are likely to be available to check pollution?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) This Ministry has not entered into any such agreement.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[English]

Kerala Express

922. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Kerala Express running between New Delhi and Trivandrum takes more time to cover the same distance than other super fast trains;

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal to increase the speed of this train; and

(c) if not, the reasons therfor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.C. LENKA): (a) to (c). No, Sir. The time taken by Kerala Express is comparable with that of other superfast trains on the route.

[Transation]

Public Convenience at Sub urban Railway Stations

923. SHRIDHARMANNA MONDAYYA SADUL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is an acute shortage of public convenience at several suburban railway stations in Bombay city; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.C. LENKA): (a) and (b). Public convenience