

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K.R. NARAYANAN) :** (a) According to the latest information a total of 22 Indians have died so far as a result of the Iran-Iraq war since its beginning. Of these, 18 deaths occurred before end of 1985, while 4 Indians died in February 1986 as a result of attack on a Greek registered ship in the Gulf.

(b) It has not become necessary to repatriate any Indian national so far during this year.

(c) Iraqi Government paid compensation to 7 Indian nationals killed in Basra in September, 1980. The question of compensation in the rest of the cases of death have been handled directly by the Shipping Companies concerned with the next of kin as per the employment contracts. The compensation cases of 4 persons who died last month have been taken up by our Mission with the concerned shipping company. Exact details of loss of property suffered by Indian nationals or companies are not available.

#### **Denudation of Forest**

1481. **SHRI P. R. KUMARAMANGALAM :** Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether forest cover has dwindled to less than 10 per cent as against 25 per cent laid down under Forest Policy ;

(b) whether this information has been provided now by satellite information unit at Dehradun ; and

(c) whether Government would book this unit up with computers to ensure correct and timely information and monitoring ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI) :** (a) The registered area of forests in the country is 22.73 percent of the total geographical area as against 33-1/3% laid down in the National Forest Policy. The actual area with tree cover has been assessed

as only 14.19% as per analysis of satellite imagery for 1980-82.

(b) This information was provided by National Remote Sensing Agency, Hyderabad.

(c) Government propose to make use of computers for forest survey work, using remote sensing techniques.

#### **Satellite Launching Stations at Kerala**

1482. **SHRI SURESH KURUP :** Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether ISRO has not considered Kerala as a suitable place for establishing further satellite launching stations; and

(b) if so, the reasons thereof ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL) :** (a) and (b) The selection of a suitable place for establishing satellite launching stations is based on various considerations, which include, the locations, area of land which is free of regular population, and most importantly, certain technical constraints such as launch safety, launch trajectory realisation and launch window constraints. There are no plans as of now to establish a satellite launching station in Kerala. The main satellite launching station of ISRO already exists at Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh.

#### **Legislation on Manufacture, Import and Disposal of Hazardous Substances**

1483. **SHRI B.V. DESAI :** Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether a comprehensive legislation on manufacture, import, use, distribution and disposal of Hazardous substances is likely to be introduced in the Parliament;