

(vi) Need to amend the Forest Act
for development of hill areas

SHRI HARISH RAWAT (Almora) : Sir, ever since the enforcement of the Forest Act, 1980, the people particularly from hill and tribal areas have been opposing it. Around development of the people living in these areas is based on forests. Most of the forests in these areas were planted, nursed and protected by the local people. But this Act has impeded all development work in these areas. For constructing roads, canals, schools buildings etc. the approval of the Central Government is necessary under the said Act. This process is so lengthy and complicated that road under construction in Almora and Pithoragarh districts of Uttar Pradesh since 1980 are still lying incomplete. People are not able to enjoy their traditional rights in forests. Forest based industries are lying closed. I would like to urge that :—

1. The present Forest Act should be amended so that it is no longer necessary to obtain the approval of the Central Government for development work.

2. The trees, which meet the requirements of local people, should be planted.

3. The local people should be encouraged to cultivate forests.

4. Cooking gas on subsidised rates should be supplied to cater to the fuel needs of the local people.

5. The existing criteria and methods adopted for construction of roads etc., should be changed and determined in such a way that minimum number of trees are cut for development works.

[English]

(vii) Need to formulate a proper sports policy for encouraging all popular games

SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISRA (Tamluk) : Sir, I congratulate the Indian Cricket team on their thunderous victory in

the world championship for Benson and Hedges cup played in Melbourne. Three consecutive victories in world and Asian Cup championships have tremendously enhanced our country's prestige in the cricket world. As the cricket is confined to few states, this victory of ours will not attract the whole world. Cricket in our country is not as popular as football so far as playing is concerned. For the development of cricket as football, the contribution of the Central Government is practically nil. The only thing that the Government is doing for cricket is popularising it by giving coverage on T.V. but the mass media such as T. V. and radio are neglecting the most popular national game like football. I would urge that Santosh Trophy matches should be shown on T.V. Similarly, Nehru Gold Cup Football championship which attracts renowned international football playing nations should also be televised on the national hook-up.

Government of India should formulate a proper sports policy to encourage all the popular games of international repute like football, hockey, swimming etc.

(viii) Need for taking steps immediately to Create a free Trade Zone at Vishakhapatnam.

SHRI S. M. BHATTAM (Visakhapatnam) : The Andhra Pradesh Government has been requesting the Centre for a long time to create a free trade zone at Visakhapatnam Port which holds promise for setting up export-oriented industries.

Vizag Port Trust has offered 300 acres for setting up free trade zone.

The Tandon Committee had long time back, recommended the setting up of 5 or 6 more free trade zones in India to boost exports. There is at present a free trade zone at Kandla port where 28 units are functioning. There is another at Santa Cruz.

Visakhapatnam Port is centrally located and is the deepest port in the country. It is an all-weather port, free from the fury of cyclones. The existence of night navigation