

[Shri Yogeshwar Prasad Yogesh]

16.29 hrs.

encouraged among them so that the bungling being done by the Forest Department in the name of afforestation can be stopped. Corruption in afforestation should be checked so that people may not work in irresponsible manner.

STATEMENT *RE* REPORT OF NATIONAL COMMISSION ON URBANISATION SUBMITTED TO GOVERNMENT IN AUGUST, 1988

[*English*]

I want to draw the attention of the hon. Minister towards some specific cases. It has become luxury to plant trees for the Departments other than the Forests Department, and they found ways to misappropriate money. If strict vigil is not kept on them and the laws not enforced strictly, the corruption will not be contained and it will rather increase. Therefore, I urge the hon. Minister that the other Government organisations which are engaged in this work such as Bharat Coking Coal, accounts of its Loyabad Colliery and Marine Colliery should be checked as lakhs or rupees have been spent on planting the trees, but not even 100 trees can be seen there. After looking into these small things, you will come to know as to how much corruption is flourishing in the name of planting trees which amounts to treason. Strict action should be taken against them. I want to tell the hon. Minister that many departments are engaged in this work but it is happening because of lack of desert monitoring and control of the Central Government. Therefore, the law should be amended so that nobody can cross his limits. It will be effective only if strict monitoring is done.

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI): I have great pleasure in announcing that the National Commission on Urbanisation headed by Shri Charles Correa, the eminent architect, has submitted its report to the Union Government. The Commission was constituted in October, 1985 at the initiative of the Prime Minister and with the mandate to examine the state of urbanisation in the country, identify priority action areas and formulate specific guidelines for an action plan for managing rapid urbanisation.

The Commission's report has been circulated to the Hon'ble Members of Parliament, State Governments and Central Government Departments and agencies.

The Commission has come up with specific suggestions on a broad range of policy interventions necessary to bring about more efficient urban settlements which could generate rapid economic growth with equity and social justice. The Commission asserts that urbanisation is a positive force and a necessary commitment of the development path we have chosen. Urbanisation is also a positive input into rural development.

Secondly, teams should be organised from amongst students of schools, colleges, teachers and professors and by observing forest week during the rainy season. Programme of tree plantations should be launched so that there is an awakening among the people and the nation is benefited.

The Commission has identified 329 urban centres whose economic and physical bases are to be consolidated, strengthened and expanded. These are described as GEMs (Generators of Economic Momentum), which fall into 49 Spatial Priority Urbanisation Regions (SPURs).

With these words, I support the Bill.

To accelerate urban development, the Commission has recommended that the current share of about 4 per cent of the total plan allocation for the urban sector in the

Five Year Plan be raised to 8 per cent. Half of this allocation should come from the Central Sector. The Commission has proposed the setting up of three specialised financing institutions for the funding of the urban sector namely, National Metropolitan Development Bank, National Urban Infrastructure Development Bank, and the National Housing Bank of which the last mentioned has already been set up.

In the Indian context, the preponderance of the poor should be taken as the principal concern of Urban planning as of economic planning. The physical planning of our cities must therefore change dramatically to achieve sensitivity to the requirements of low income groups and informal sector for shelter, employment, basic services and finance. To ameliorate urban poverty, the Commission recommends that self employment of urban poor must be encouraged by an appropriate credit support programme supervised by an Urban Small Business Development Bank. The Commission has recommended further that four lakh urban youths should be selected from poor urban households every year and trained in various skills so that they can get gainful employment.

The Commission has recommended that the housing policy must aim at increasing the supply of serviced land and low-cost shelter, improving and upgrading slums and conserving the existing housing stock. Public agencies in the housing sector should be restructured for fulfilment of new role as facilitators rather than builders of housing.

The Commission accords high priority to the supply of developed land in the urbanisation process. State intervention in the urban land marked is imperative for ensuring equitable access to land for the urban poor and to recycle existing land efficiently.

The Commission has recommended a number of reforms in existing laws which are constraining urban development.

The Commission suggests that conser-

vation should go beyond preservation of monuments and encompass the whole built heritage. Direct fiscal and other incentives should be offered as an encouragement to individuals to conserve places and sites.

For the efficient management of urban centres, the Commission has proposed to two-tier administrative set up consisting of city corporation and local councils for cities with over 5 lakh population. It has proposed steps to improve the financial and managerial capacity of local bodies, besides larger access to budgetary and institutional resources.

The Commission has also recommended that for the formulation of future urbanisation policies, there should be a permanent National Urbanisation Council at the national level with a counterpart State Urbanisation Council in each state. It emphasises the importance of peoples' participation and has proposed the setting up of an Indian Council for Citizens Action to interact in urbanisation policies.

The Government propose to process the recommendations of the Commission for implementation expeditiously taking into consideration the response to the report. The suggestions from Honourable Members, the various agencies of Central/State Government, concerned expert and members of the public will help the Government in the consideration of the report and implementation of the recommendations.

As you are aware, the work relating to the formulation of the Eighth Five Year Plan has already been initiated by the Planning Commission. The Ministry of Urban Development is actively involved in assisting the Planning Commission in formulating the strategy on urban development, housing water supply act. We would be taking into consideration the recommendations made by the National Commission on Urbanisation as well as the comments received thereon from different agencies while finalising the approach to the Eighth Plan. The Government will greatly benefit from the

[Shrimati Mohsina Kidwai]

valuable comments of the Honourable Members of the House on the vital issues discussed by the Commission in its report.

16.36 hrs.

FOREST (CONSERVATION) AMENDMENT BILL-CONTD.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now the House will continue consideration of the Forest (Conservation) Amendment Bill, 1988. Shri Mankuram Sodi.

[Translation]

SHRIMANKURAMSODI (Bastar) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I hope that the amendment to the Bill brought forward by the Hon. Minister will benefit the entire country. To improve the environment, it is essential that the forest area should be increased because environment is preserved by the forest.

But one thing worth consideration is that Adivasis also live in the forests. The Adivasi areas, are very backward. The way our country is developing, Adivasi, areas are not being developed at the same rate. We have to develop Adivasi areas also and at the same rate with which rest of the country is being developed.

It is essential that the means of livelihood must be provided to them, no matter even if you have to amend this Bill further.

Approach roads should be built for Adivasis to facilitate their movement, drinking water should also be provided for them. Arrangements to provide education and medical facilities to them should also be made. Means of irrigation will have to be established.

Those who live in the forests know from

their experience that such Bill create problems for them. Somehow you have to see that the people living in forests do not face any problems, as a result of this amendment and at the same time they could conserve the forests. They should be able to lead their life while treating the forests as their companions.

If Adivasis living in the forests are not treated properly, the development in forests will be hampered. They make every effort to conserve the forests. Had they not protected the forests, the environment would have been deteriorated. If you want to preserve the environment of the country, please save their lives also. It is, therefore, very essential to develop their areas. It is necessary to supply electricity and provide drinking water in their areas. Please get the handpumps installed at the places where they work. They do not get water from the hand-pumps installed in the forests. When you arrange for supply of water by laying pipes, you must supply that water to them also. Approach roads should be built for their use and get the stones fixed. If the stone is needed, they are not allowed to extract it on the plea that this is forest land. Everywhere obstructions are created on the plea that the land is a forest land. Even when we want to build a school, or a play ground for the children, a dwelling unit for the doctor who is taken to the villages after great difficulty or laying of the drains for irrigation purposes authorities do not cooperative on the place that was a forest land,

The development of rural areas shall be stopped in this manner. It cannot help in securing support and cooperation of Adivasis. Please do not treat Adivasis who have been living in the forests and have conserved the forests and preserved the environment, enemy of forests.

It was deliberated in 1976 to issue lease deeds to Adivasis, some people have been given lease deeds while many others have not got the same. There is a need to issue instructions for them too. Please get it re-verified again, that the people who have been living for 15-20 years there, have been