

technology and high technology. We have also got Research and Development. We are adopting a set of science and technology. All these components are needed for technological development. For hi-tech it requires hybrid induction. The objective of hybrid induction for Research and Development is to reduce the high cost of the product. I want to know whether the Government is proposing to develop such a technology by which we will be able to reduce the high cost of the product either because of import or the technology which you have adopted and developed will be used in such a way by which we will be self-sufficient in respect of technology.

DR. RAJA RAMANNA: I think, the hon. Member has raised a very important question is the sense that R&D is necessary for any industry if it has to improve efficiency and bring down the cost. But unfortunately, except in Government industries, the R&D effort in private industry has not been all that effective. That is why, our costs are probably high which the hon. Member has referred to. It is important that all industries, whether in public or private sector, have an R&D group mainly towards reducing the costs. I think, the Government has been insisting that there must be R&D units in all the industrial organisations.

SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO: When it requires higher cost investment for industrial development, what the Government of India is going to do to give all that priority in the allocation for R&D?

DR. RAJA RAMANNA: It is noticed that the amount of money being spent by industry towards R&D is less than 4 per cent. That is perhaps, a little too small yet. In fact, larger amounts have to be invested and get help of good people who can see connection between R&D and industrial production.

SHRI A. K. ROY: Those of us who have come from technology schools, feel very sad about the affairs in the country. Lop-sided growth whether in economy or agriculture is

the root cause of political imbalance in the country.

And here not only import but motivation is important. The question of technology is connected with our thrust on self-reliance and indigenous growth because a country of 800 million people cannot live by import. You have to evolve everything by ourself. today you will find from tomato paste to tooth paste, for everything we depend on collaboration. May I know from the hon. Minister whether they will put a total ban on all foreign collaborations with multinationals, for five years and ask our national laboratories to develop the technology so that we can compete in this modern world?

DR. RAJA RAMANNA: The hon. Member, perhaps, has taken a very pessimistic view of the development in the country. there is a lot in the country which is absolutely indigenous and made out of the genius of our young people, young scientists and technologist. So there is no need for such a serious alarm that the hon. Member is raising. I do agree that a lot of import is taking place on the basis of foreign knowhow which is also available in the country. But it is the effort of the industrialists to make use of Indian know how which is sometimes of quality and sometimes not of quality also. The world is getting smaller in which, I think, world trade depends on inter-dependence and not simply on self-dependence.

Preservation of Forests

*721. SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the extent to which the legal and developmental measures undertaken by the Government to protect and preserve the forests have been successful so far; and

(b) the new measures to be undertaken by Government, if any, in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NILAMANI ROUTRAY): (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) The enactment of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and its amendment in 1988 has been successful in bringing down the annual rate of diversion of forest land for non-forest use from 1.5 lakh hectares (based on 30 years data for 1951-1980) to 15,400 hectares (based on data for 1980-1989). As per studies conducted by Forest Survey of India using satellite imagery, the extent of dense forest cover has increased by 16,456 Sq. Kms. between 1981-83 and 1985-87. Development measures include various afforestation schemes by which it has been possible to afforest approximately 1.77 million hectares of land annually during the VIIth Five Year Plan as against 0.93 million hectares annually during VIth Five Year Plan.

(b) Measures taken to protect and conserve forests are given below:-

1. The National forest Policy, 1988, lays more emphasis on conservation of forests. There are specific provisions for protection of forests from grazing, fires and encroachment.
2. Forest (Conservation) Act was enacted in 1980 to check diversion of forest land for non-forest purposes. The act has been made more stringent by an amendment of 1988.
3. A centrally sponsored scheme is under implementation to help the States to develop infrastructure for protection of forests.
4. Alternative sources of energy are encouraged to replace fuelwood in domestic and commercial sectors.

5. Wood is substituted by alternative materials in packaging, railway sleepers, building construction, furniture etc.
6. Import policy for timber has been liberalised.
7. Efforts are being made to control shifting cultivation.
8. Accent on Social Forestry and wasteland development to provide alternative sources of fuel, fodder and timber to rural communities.
9. Guidelines have been issued to State/UT Governments from time to time for protection of forests. Some of these guidelines are as follows:-
 - (i) To avoid felling of natural forests and where such felling are inevitable for restoration of tree crop or other silvicultural considerations, it should be restricted to area not exceeding 10 hectares in the hills and 25 hectares in the plains.
 - (ii) To consider banning of fellings in the hills above 1,000 metres, at least for some years.
 - (iii) to identify critical areas in the hills and mountains which require protection from felling of forests and need immediate vigorous afforestation.
 - (iv) to set apart 4% of the geographical area of the country as protection area in the form of wildlife sanctuaries, natural

parcs, biosphere reserves etc.

- (v) To take measures for protection of forests from fires.

10. National Wasteland Board has been set up as a agency for implementation of wasteland development programme by re-forestation of degraded land and restoration of ecological balance.
11. Amendment to the Indian forest Act, 1927 as well as the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 is under consideration of Government.

SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO: I have gone through the statement. Here there is a change in some of the policy matters. I would like to know whether the Government is going to amend the Forests Act of 1988 keeping in view the stringent measures which are there to protect the rights of the Tribals in the forests as well as other concessional measures which have been incorporated over the years from 1962 to 1988, but are not being implemented and because of which the Tribals are put to lot of difficulties.

SHRINILAMANIRAO TRAY: Sir, there is no contemplation of amending the Forests (Amendment) Act of 1980 and 1988. On the other hand the Government are now thinking to bring forward a comprehensive Forest Law, amending certain sections of the old Act of 1927 which is now under the consideration of the Government. All these matters were referred to the Inter-Ministerial Committee. They have gone through it and they have suggested certain amendments and it is now before the Cabinet.

SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO: Sir, the forests were destroyed or the forest area has been reduced because of shifting cultivation adopted by the tribals in the forests. There are about 5000 forest villages within the forest areas. Sir, the Government sometimes reserve the forests in the name of

national park etc. without keeping in mind the tribal people living inside the forests. This has happened recently when they wanted to cultivate. Before the enactment of Act of 1952 the tribals thought that the forests are their right. Therefore, Sir, here the question is: How to settle the tribals, those who are adopting shifting pattern cultivation as well as those who are living in the villages within the forests. What type of measures are you going to take to solve the problems faced by them?

SHRINILAMANIRAO TRAY: Sir, these matters concerning the protection of the rights of the tribals in the forest area are actively being considered by the government and for that Inter-Ministerial Committee was constituted and they have given the Report. In the Report they have laid down certain principles as to how the interests of the tribals in the forest area could be protected.

SHRI BALGOPAL MISHRA: Sir, I would like to know through you from the Hon. Minister what is the total percentage forest area as per the Report of the Forests Department and what is the Report of the Remote Sensing Agency about the total forest area under the forests? Secondly, a situation has come where now we have to protect the forests from the Forests Department officials itself because they are the biggest dangers to the forests. Will the Government consider involving villagers and tribals for the protection of the forests? Will the Government give them the right to protect the forests and enjoy the benefit?

SHRI NILAMANI RAO TRAY: Sir, as per the Report, the Forest area in the country is 75.18 million hectares, which works out to 22.8 per cent of the geographical area of the country. The estimate made by the Survey of India and the National Remote Sensing Agency gives the figure for the actual forests area as 64.20 million hectares, which works out to 19.52 per cent of the total geographical area of the country. Now, I would like hon. Member to repeat the second part of his question.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member wants to know how to save the forests from the Forests Department Officials and how to guarantee the rights to the tribals?

SHRI NILAMANI RAOUTRAY: Sir, that thing has also been taken into consideration. The Ministerial Committee have also gone into that and they have also suggested ways how to help the people in the forest areas, specially the tribals and the rural people living there, and that will be immediately looked into.

[*Translation*]

PROF. MAHADEO SHIWANKAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government has declared some areas of Vidharba particularly the pastures in Nagpur, Bhandara, Chandrapur and Garh Chirauli districts as forest land. Forest Conservation Act has been enforced there, as a result of which irrigation and other projects are held up. A committee was constituted by the Government last year for this purpose. I would like to know whether the committee has submitted its report?

MR. SPEAKER: A separate notice is required for it.

PROF. MAHADEO SHIWANKAR: My question in this regard is whether Government will consider constituting a committee to consider the question of keeping these pastures called 'Jhurpi Dungal' out of the purview of Forest Conservation Act?

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: You reply to the second part of his question.

SHRI NILAMANI RAOUTRAY: Sir, as regards the Jhurpi Dungal, at the moment I have no such information. I want a separate notice for that.

PROF. K. V. THOMAS: Sir, the Kerala Government is continuously violating the environmental and forest laws in the land. The Chimini Project, which has not been

cleared by the Environment Department of the Government of India....(*Interruptions*).

MR. SPEAKER: How can he reply to that?

PROF. K. V. THOMAS: This is a Government of India concern, Sir....(*Interruptions*).

MR. SPEAKER: If the Minister can reply, I have no objection.

PROF. K. V. THOMAS: The Chimini Project has not been cleared by the Environment Department of the Government of India and there is a clear cut instruction from the Central Forest Commissioner, Bangalore that the trees should not be cut. There is also a Stay from the High Court of Kerala that the trees should not be cut. But the cutting of the trees is going on unchecked.

MR. SPEAKER: About this specific question, the Minister must be in dark. How can he reply to you?

PROF. K. V. THOMAS: My specific question is about the Chimini Project.

MR. SPEAKER: If you want to know what is the correspondence with the State Government, you give a separate notice. How can he reply to that? He wants a notice.

PROF. K. V. THOMAS: This is a major problem in Kerala, Sir. Secondly, there is a decision that after 1974 if any encroachment is there on the forest land, permission will not be given and patta will not be given. Now again that issue has been reopened and sent to the Government of India. Even without the Government of India giving any permission, they have started giving permission to all the encroachments. It is a very serious thing. If the encroachment is going on, Kerala will become another desert. So, what decision has the Government of India taken in this regard?

MR. SPEAKER: Can you reply to the second part of his question?

SHRI NILAMANI ROUTRAY: Sir, so far as the second part of the question is concerned, if the hon. Member can pass on any specific instance to me, I will certainly look into that and see what action is taken. But so far as the other parts of the question are concerned, I humbly submit that they do not arise out of this question.

MR. SPEAKER: I have already ruled that.

[*Translation*]

SHRI PURUSHOTTAM KAUSHIK: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there are two aspects of the question. One relates to Forest Conservation and the other is concerned with its development. Besides other reasons, one of the reasons for felling of forests is that non-conventional sources of energy are not increasing rapidly and the people fell forest trees for use as fuel. Sir, so far as the question of development is concerned, afforestation is undertaken every year by the officers of the Forest Department. Funds are allocated from the World Bank for this work. But a year later, you will find that hardly 5-10 per cent of the forest trees so planted survive. Afforestation work is not taking place at the desired pace due to lack of proper maintenance and protective care. Since the felling of forests continues in spite of the Forest Conservation Act having come into operation, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether Government would develop non-conventional sources of energy, such as Gobar Gas, Solar Energy, etc. in coordination with other concerned departments or Ministries? Secondly, forest conservation work or afforestation work is not taking the form of development due to negligence on the part of the forest officials. What action will be taken by the Government against the officials due to whose negligence plants wither away? I would like to know whether any instance of withering away of saplings planted under afforestation programme due to lack of proper maintenance has come to the notice of hon. Minister. If so, the number of guilty officers against whom action has been taken by the hon. Minister?

[*English*]

SHRI NILAMANI ROUTARY: Sir, it is a fact that in certain areas such violation are being made and it is also a fact that there is a dearth of firewood and fodder which are in great demand by rural population and for that afforestation is absolutely necessary and towards that end, the Government is paying attention. We have taken up social forestry programme for the purpose. I think that would greatly help the people in rearing forests in those areas(*Interruptions*).....

[*Translation*]

SHRI A. LARANG SAI: Sir, this question concerns us. I have been raising my hand for quite some time. Please give me also an opportunity to put a supplementary.

MR. SPEAKER: This question relates to the entire country, not to you only.

SHRI A. LARANG SAI: We are more related to the forests so we have a right to put a question.

MR. SPEAKER: But that hardly enhances your right.....(*Interruptions*).....

[*English*]

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: Sir, the forest will be protected by enactment of laws and amending the present forest laws. The forest which was previously within the State List was brought under the Concurrent List. Now, after bringing it under the Concurrent List, the Government are not able to protect the forest in the country. When there was forest, there was no forest department and when the Forest Department came into being, there is no forest. The forest is being denuded. So, Sir, some integrated programme should be evolved because protection of forest is related to other economic and social problem. May I know from the hon. Minister whether there is proposal to bring forward a comprehensive amendment to the Act in order to protect the forest and also to expand

the forest area of our country? The Government should see to it that some effective percentage of our land area should be under forest. I think it is now something about 13% and it should be 35% or so. I would like to know whether the Government will evolve some integrated programme to protect the forest in our country like IRDP, NREP, cheap fuel to the poor people and to give the right to protect the forest to the tribals, to the people of that area so that they can protect the forest and they can have certain percentage of forest produce from the forest areas.

SHRI NILAMANI ROUTRAY: Sir, I entirely agree with the hon. Member that this is a problem which needs an integrated approach and therefore integrated efforts will have to be made. So far as the forest Act and its working are concerned, at different places, they just work in the opposite direction. Therefore, it has been thought proper that the old Act of 1927 which is about 62 years old, has now created confusion in the sense that several States also, in the meantime, have enacted laws in their own States and they are in conflict with the Central law. Therefore, it is proposed to bring the various points in an integrated form in order to amend the Forest Act of 1927. The original Act itself is more than 62 years old. Some States have other parallel Acts, some other States have amended the original Act from time to time. It is, therefore, essential to have a comprehensive legislation which could be uniformly applicable to all areas so that there will be appropriate provisions because in the mean time many social changes have been brought about. So, those things are not in the old Act. The old Act should be amended in a comprehensive way taking all these things into consideration. In the mean time we had also consulted several States. A Committee was formed. The Committee went into it and they consulted several States on what type of amendment will be made so that it will suit the people specially the tribal people and people in the forest areas so that they can look after the forests, rear the forests and protect the forests and the common interests will be safeguarded with the help of voluntary organisations also.

[*Translation*]

SHRI A. LARANG SAI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we want to be active participant in forest development. Afforestation in hilly tribal areas is putting obstacle in their development. Even a small dam requiring half acre of forest land cannot be constructed under the Forest Preservation Act. Every day, tribals have to travel from one village to another. But a road cannot be constructed connecting the villages as forest land is required for it. Through you, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether some land will be left for constructing of roads for connecting tribal villages in these hill areas? Will some land be provided for construction of dams and roads in tribal areas? Will some relaxation will be given in respect of tribal areas?

[*English*]

SHRI NILAMANI ROUTRAY: Sir, these are the things which I have stated earlier, but because of these difficulties and harassment to the people specially the Adivasi people, we have been thinking of bringing about a comprehensive scheme where they can be protected specially the tribal people.....(*Interruptions*). For tribal people we have taken special care to look into their difficulties, specially their tradition, the way they are utilising forests and the way they are utilising the products of the forests specially the minor forests and specially the roads which are laid there. These are now being obstructed and in order to sort out their difficulties, that Committee was appointed and that Committee has given a report.....(*Interruptions*).....

[*Translation*]

SHRI NANDLAL MEENA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether Government of India will direct the State Government not to dispossess the tribals their forest land, which has been under their possession for a long time land whose land is submerged due to construction of irrigation dam in the tribal areas of Rajasthan, pending decision and formula-

tion of a clear cut policy by the forest Department in this regard. Their hutments in the hilly areas are being burnt down and they are being forced to leave the place. They are meted out inhuman treatment. How tribal participation in the development of forests is to be ensured? Will the hon. Minister elucidate the matter?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Routary, he asked regarding the cooperation of Adivasis.

SHRI NILAMANI ROUTARY: Sir, the policy is to enlist the cooperation of the Adivasis and how that cooperation can be achieved, how that can be done, that aspect of the question will be examined.

MR. SPEAKER: Question No. 722 - Shri Shantaram Potdukhe - Absent Shri Dilip Singh Ju Deo - Absent.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ: Sir, it is a very important question which should be taken up. There should be some precedent.

MR. SPEAKER: You are to persuade them to stay on, Prof. Soz. Now, Question No. 723 - Shri Srikantaiah.

S. S. C. Examination Centre at Hassan (Karnataka)

*723. SHRI H. C. SRIKANTAIAH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the places in Karnataka where the Staff Selection Commission (SSC) conducts its examination;

(b) whether there is any proposal to open an examination centre of the Staff Selection Commission at Hassan in Karnataka; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH): (a) the Staff Selection Commission conducts its major

examinations at six centres in Karnataka, namely, Bangalore, Shimoga, Dharwar, Mangalore, Mysore and Gulbarga.

(b) and (c). No, Sir.

SHRI H. C. SRIKANTAIAH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I request the Hon. Prime Minister to consider Hassan also as one of the centres.

SHRI VISWANATH PRATAP SINGH: Sir, we have noted it.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know the number of examination centres of Staff Selection Commission in Rajasthan?

MR. SPEAKER: This question is related to Karnataka.

[English]

It does not flow from the main question.

Speedy Implementation of Code on Breast Feeding

*724. SHRIMATI SUBHASHINI ALI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to review the appointments to high position in various official bodies with a view to ensure speedy and affective implementation of code on breast feeding accepted by Government long ago; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

[Translation]

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRIMATI USHA SINHA): (a) No appointments are envisaged for implementation of the " Indian National Code for