

(d) Yes, Sir.

[Translation]

Forest Lands in Possession of Adivasis of Gujarat

7696. SHRI CHANDUBHAI DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the total area of forest-land in possession of adivasis in Gujarat at present;

(b) whether Government propose to shift them;

(c) whether Government had enacted any legislation in 1978-79 for giving ownership rights to those who are in possession of the forest land prior to 1971; and

(d) if so, the policy of Government in regard to such cases?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NILAMANI ROURAY): (a) to (d). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Felling of Trees in Andaman and Nicobar

7697. SHRI SHIKIHO SEMA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether felling of trees in the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands has been resumed by the Forests Department/Corporations recently; if so, the reasons therefor; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to spell out its policy on deforestation vis-a-

vis industrialisation in the Union Territory?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NILAMANI ROURAY): (a) The extraction of timber by Andaman and Nicobar Islands Forests Deptt. and Forest Development Corporation is being done on the basis of sanctioned Working Plans.

(b) (i) Steps taken to check deforestation are given below:

1. The National Forests Policy, 1988 lays more emphasis on environmental stability and ecological restoration and on conserving the natural heritage by preserving remaining natural forests and meeting the requirements of basic needs of fuelwood, fodder, minor forests products and small timber of rural and tribal population, increasing the productivity of forests, etc. There are specific provisions for protection of forests from grazing, fires and encroachments.
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 State to develop infrastructure for protection of forests.
4. Wood is substituted by alternative materials in packaging, railway sleepers, building construction, furniture, etc.
5. Import policy for timber has been

liberalised.

6. Guidelines have been issued to State/U.T. Governments from time to time for protection of forests. Some of these guidelines are as follows:

- To avoid felling of natural forests and where such felling are inevitable for restoration of crop or other silvicultural consideration, it should be restricted to area not exceeding 10 hectares in the hills and 25 hectares in the plains.
- To identify critical areas in the hills and mountains which require protection from felling of forests and need immediate vigorous afforestation.
- To set apart 4% of the geographical area as protection area like wildlife sanctuaries, national parks, biosphere reserve etc.

- (ii) National Forest policy, 1988 lays down the following provisions regarding forest based industries:—

1. As far as possible, a forest based industry should raise the raw material needed for meeting its own requirements, preferably by establishment of a direct relationship between the factory and the individuals who can grow the raw material by supporting the individuals with inputs including credit, constant technical advice and finally harvesting and transport services.
2. Non-forest-based enterprise,

expect that at the village or cottage level, should be permitted in the future unless it has been first cleared after a careful scrutiny with regard to assured availability of raw material. In any case, the fuel, fodder and Timber requirements of the local population should not be sacrificed for this purpose.

3. Forest-based industries must not only provide employment to local people on priority but also involve them fully in raising trees and raw material.
4. Natural forests serve as a gene pool resource and help to maintain ecological balance. Such forests will not, therefore, be made available to industries for undertaking plantation and for any other activities.
5. Farmers, particularly small and marginal farmers/degraded lands available with them wood species required for industries. These may also be grown alongwith fuel and fodder species on community lands not required for pasture purposes, and by forest Department/ Corporations on degraded forests, not earmarked for natural regeneration.
6. The practice of supply of forest produce to industry at concessional prices should cease. Industry should be encouraged to use alternative raw materials. Import of wood and wood products should be liberalised.
7. The above considerations will, however, be subject to the cur-

rent policy relating to land ceiling and land-laws.

**Proposal to set up Atomic Power Plant
in Bihar**

7698. SHRI DHARMESH PRASAD VARMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to set up atomic power plant in the district of West Champaran, Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof and when it would be set up; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and whether Government propose to provide a substitute power generating unit in West Champaran District?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. RAJA RAMANNA): (a) At present there is no plan to set up a nuclear power plant in West Champaran District of Bihar.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Due to the availability of coal reserves in Eastern Electricity Region of which Bihar is a part, the priority for setting up of nuclear power plants is relatively lower.

In so far as setting up of any power generating unit is concerned, information is being ascertained from the Ministry of Energy (Department of Power) and Will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

**Rehabilitation of Ex-servicemen of
Maharashtra**

7699. SHRI HARI SHANKAR MAHALE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the district-wise number of ex-servicemen yet to be rehabilitated in Maharashtra;

(b) the steps being taken for their rehabilitation; and

(c) the time by which all are likely to be rehabilitated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. RAJA RAMANNA): (a) On the basis of the "Live Registers" maintained by the Zila Sainik Boards, the district-wise number of ex-servicemen in the State of Maharashtra yet to be rehabilitated as on January 1990 by way of re-employment is given in the statement below.

(b) The Central Government has provided reservation of 10% and 20% for Group 'C' and Group 'D' posts respectively. the reservation for 'Group 'C' and Group 'D' posts in Central Public Sector Undertakings including Nationalised Banks is 14 1/2% and 24 1/2% respectively. The reservation can be carried forward for one year in respect of unutilised reserved vacancies. Ministries/ Departments with larger employment potential have been requested to undertake special drives for recruitment of ex-servicemen, including pooling of vacancies and giving advance intimation of the vacancies.

In addition, the State Government of Maharashtra have provided a reservation of 15% each in Group 'C' and Group 'D' posts under the State Government.

Apart from the reservation provided by the Central and State Governments the schemes for self-employment such as SEMFEX-I and SEMFEX-II are also in operation in the State of Maharashtra.

(c) While all efforts are made to provide maximum employment opportunities and