

hon. Minister has said effective monitoring of projects through monthly flash reports and initiating corrective action. These are the two steps which the hon. Minister has said that the Government proposes to take. I would like to know since land acquisition is a major problem in these delays would the Government consider amending the Land Acquisition Act suitably so that delay can be minimised? Similarly, there is the problem of forest clearance and delivery of equipment. Will the Government give general guidelines for the problem of forest clearance and supplying the required equipment instead of taking monthly flash reports only?

MR. SPEAKER : It is a good suggestion for consideration.

SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHOUDHURY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, one cause is not responsible for the delay. There are variety of causes. If the hon. Member is interested to know as to what are the projects that are held up due to land acquisition I can tell him.

DR. V. VENKATESH : Sir, I rise on a point of order.

MR. SPEAKER : There is no point of order in Question Hour. There you are wrong. You are caught on the wrong foot.

SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHOUDHURY : I wanted to inform the House that there are variety of reasons. Sometimes there is equipment delay. Sometimes there is funding problem. Now, miscellaneous problems are there. It is not the land acquisition problem alone. I do not think even a single project is there that you can point out for land acquisition the project is held up except Koel Karo in Bihar.

DR. V. VENKATESH : Sir, he has said that there is a delay of 3 to 4 years. But particularly in Karnataka, what about the Vijayanagar Steel Plant and what about the Mangalore Refineries? Sir, he is misleading the House.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : No, no. He said that due to gestation period there are

certain delays and the matter is being looked into.

DR. V. VENKATESH : He has said about the delay of three to four years. What about the projects in Karnataka. He is misleading the House.

MR. SPEAKER : It is not a question of misleading. Time factor is crucial.

SHRI V. S. KRISHNA IYER : Mr. Speaker, Sir,

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I have not allowed you.

*(Interruptions)**

SHRI V.S. KRISHNA IYER : Sir, I want to know whether any decision has been taken in regard to Vijayanagar Steel Plant.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : It is not a specific field. It varies from project to project.

SHRI V.S. KRISHNA IYER : Sir, we want to know a firm answer from the hon. Minister. *(Interruptions)* I am asking about Karnataka. About 15 years ago, foundation stone was laid for this project.

(Interruptions)

Conversion of Wasteland into Profitable Forestry

*148. SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY:

SHRI SARFARAZ AHMAD :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Indian Farmers' Fertiliser Co-operative Limited has undertaken a scheme to convert wasteland in the country into profitable forestry as a pilot project;

(b) if so, the names of States where such projects will be undertaken.

(c) the estimated wasteland likely to be utilised; and

(d) the funds allocated for the purpose?

*Not recorded.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI) : (a) **The Indian Farmers Fertilizers Co-operative has drawn up project proposal for afforestation in 10 States. Identification of States will be done after detailed techno-economic feasibility studies are carried out. Final decision about the details of the project has not been taken.**

(b) States mentioned in the project proposal at present are : Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. As mentioned in reply to part (a) of the question above, the final identification would be subject to techno-economic feasibility studies.

(c) The proposal aims at afforesting 50,000 hectares of wasteland in the seven year phased programme.

(d) The requirement of funds depend upon the technoeconomic feasibility studies to be carried out in this behalf, leading to a Detailed Project Report. The allocation and sources of funds therefor can be considered only thereafter. Presently, no funds have been allocated for the purpose.

SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY : Sir, afforestation is the prime need of the day. Day by day, forests are diminishing. The bulk of the funds which are allotted for the purpose of afforestation has not been utilised properly—they have been diverted—thereby causing air-pollution, etc. Will the hon. Minister kindly consider to involve some of the voluntary organisations both public and private sectors to take up these programmes? Will the hon. Minister also kindly consider taking up this afforestation programme prior to the establishment of an industry so that air-pollution is avoided and the industry can well serve the country. I want a specific answer from the hon. Minister. What are the afforestation programmes which they are taking up other than the IFFCO?

SHRI Z.R. ANSARI : Sir, I am equally concerned with the deforestation in this county and it is for this purpose that we

have projection to involve voluntary organisations and this proposal of IFFCO is a step towards that direction.

SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY : What is the total wasteland area available in our country as well as in Andhra Pradesh? What are the programmes taken up in Andhra Pradesh with reference to the IFFCO and other voluntary organisations?

SHRI Z. R. ANSARI : This is a question pertaining to the specific proposal which has been put forward by the IFFCO for developing Group Cooperative Societies for afforestation of the wasteland through the Group Cooperative Societies.

SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY : What is the extent of wasteland?

SHRI Z. R. ANSARI : About 50,000 hectares of wasteland have been proposed by the IFFCO.

MR. SPEAKER : Some time back all the details were given in a paper, how much wasteland was there in the whole country and how much was going to be reclaimed.

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI RAJIV GANDHI):The hon. Member has mentioned just a few minutes back, in his first supplementary that he asked about the diversion of funds from forestry so that the forestry was not getting the requisite funds. This is a very serious problem that we are having. It came up in a question a little while ago. Many projects that we start from here and that we fund from here are handled by the State Governments themselves, but we do not have adequate means of monitoring whether the State Governments are actually using that for the projects and areas that the money is designated for, and perhaps the hon. Member knows about Andhra and that is why he asked that question.

SHRI SARFARAZ AHMAD : When was this programme drawn up by IFFCO and what are the tasks before the cooperatives?

SHRI Z. R. ANSARI : The proposal has come from IFFCO and according to

the proposal they want to create fuel wood and timber plantation in 5000 hectares in each State in seven years in ten States and the project period is seven years. The production of fuel wood and timber would commence from the 8th year and fodder will be produced from the very first year onwards. The implementing agency for this project would be IFFCO and the cooperative societies will be organised and they will take care of the afforestation in the local areas. This, in a nutshell, is the project of IFFCO for afforestation of the wasteland.

SHRI PRATAP BHANU SHARMA : The Government is giving priority for the afforestation and recently it has constituted the National Wasteland Development Board. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government would consider afforestation project jointly sponsored by the National Wasteland Development Board and the public sector organizations, specially those who are in the field of fertilizer, paper and forest based industries, and who are conducting the techno-economic feasibility studies.

SHRI Z. R. ANSARI : The techno-economic feasibility will be done by the experts. As I have already told this august House, this proposal is a step forward to involve the public organizations and public undertakings as also encourage cooperative movement. This, in a nutshell, is the purpose of this proposal.

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI : The Government has shown its concern for deforestation which we all welcome. But has it come to the notice of the Government that there are many States where forests are being inundated resulting in total ecological imbalance and in some of those States, the same party, which is ruling the country, is also there? May I know if the Central Government has taken up the matter with the State Governments concerned, and what steps are being taken to see that such inundation of forests does not take place?

SHRI Z. R. ANSARI : This is worrying us most and no less a person than the Prime Minister has himself taken up the

matter with the State Governments irrespective of the fact to which party the State Government belongs to. This is a matter in which we are not concerned with the party affiliations of the State Government. Where that sort of thing takes place, we take strong action, and as I said, no less a person than the Prime Minister has addressed all the Chief Ministers of the States for taking care of the forests.

Installation of Super Computers

***151. SHRI AKHTAR HASAN :** Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the areas where super computers are proposed to be installed have since been identified;

(b) if so, the details therefore; and

(c) the particular use which these computers are proposed to be put to without disturbing the employment potential in those areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY & IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONIC AND SPACE (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. There are numerous areas of Science and Technology where super computers are essential.

(c) Applications identified for super computers can be performed only on computers of this range. Such processing of information cannot be done manually. Therefore, the usage of these computers will not affect the employment potential in these areas.

[Translation]

SHRI AKHTAR HASAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to know whether installation of these computers will not add to the Government expenditure and whether they will render any benefit to the common man by reducing hurdles in the Government work?

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : The computers will not add to the expenditure;