

I would like to know from the Government whether the Central Government is going to help the Gujarat Government in this project.

SHRI BIR SEN : The Central Government gives grants for non-recurring expenditure for building of roads, fencing, etc. The Central Government has given so far Rs. 9.24 lakhs for this purpose.

[Translation]

SHRI BANWARI LAL BAIRWA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there are two very important game sanctuaries in Rajasthan—one is the Ranthambore Sanctuary in Sawai Madhopur District and the other is at Siraska in Alwar District. They are serving as a habitat for various kinds of animals like lion etc. on a large scale and the animals are being looked after very well there. Do Government have any scheme to develop both these game sanctuaries? As these are places of tourist attraction and residential accommodation is inadequate there, will Government look into it?

SHRI BIR SEN : A separate notice is required for this.

[English]

Methods to Locate Wasteland for Afforestation

*202. **SHRIMATI KISHORI SINHA :** Will the the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether any survey being conducted for demarcating the areas for development under Wasteland Development Scheme of Government;

(b) if so, the State in which it is being conducted;

(c) if not, the other methods being followed to locate the wasteland for its afforestation; and

(d) the institutional arrangement and species of trees to be used under this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BIR SEN) : (a) to (c). Survey using remote sensing techniques have been conducted in the country. The data collected is being interpreted and the results are likely to be received soon. On receipt of the aforesaid report, areas for development under Wasteland Development Scheme will be demarcated. State Governments have also been advised to identify such wastelands which could be covered under the afforestation programme.

(d) The following institutional arrangements are already available for implementing the scheme by the State Governments :—

- (i) Forest Department;
- (ii) District Rural Development Agency;
- (iii) Soil Conservation Department;
- (iv) Special Area Development Authorities.

In addition, it is proposed to utilise non-government organisations and others to complement the efforts of the State Governments.

The scheme will be funded through institutional finances and aid received from bilateral/multilateral aid agencies. Different tree species would be selected on the consideration of soil and climatic conditions.

SHRIMATI KISHORI SINHA : I would like to know whether it is possible for our hon. Prime Minister to inform the House about the time that is likely to be taken for the submission of the report about the demarcation of the area. Have the Government received any information from the State Governments about the time likely to be taken for that?

SHRI BIR SEN : This information is not yet available.

SHRIMATI KISHORI SINHA : I would like to know the likely investment which will entail and what will be the employment potential.

SHRI BIR SEN : Detailed estimates have not yet been worked out; also, a separate notice is required for this.

SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY : I would like to ask the hon. Prime Minister about the demarcation of wasteland for afforestation, which is very essential because our rainfall is going down year after year.

The first problem is that the demarcation is done by the Forest and other Departments at the State level. There are lot of people—millions of people—who are ploughing their land and are in a dangerous position of being evicted. Another thing is, in the name of afforestation some of the species which are injurious to our country are also being planted. One of them is eucalyptus, which is only suitable for places which are watery or hilly areas. In the other areas also they are being planted. Some research done shows that eucalyptus plant will dry away ground water. I would like to know from the Prime Minister whether any guidelines have been issued to the States where these lands have to be demarcated, to protect the farmers there, and about the plantation of trees which are of specified varieties.

SHRI BIR SEN : Encroachments are there and the State Governments have been requested to find out actually how much land is available. So demarcation and identification of the land is being done by the State Government. As far as the second part the question is concerned, for every soil and climatic conditions, species of trees are recommended by the State Department. As far as eucalyptus trees are concerned, I think, it is a much maligned tree, and the views that are expressed by the hon. Member are not correct.

SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY : He has not replied.....(Interruption)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You can put a separate question for that.

[Translation]

SHRI V. TULSIRAM : Mr. Deputy Speaker sir, I wanted to put this supplementary question on the previous question but you always look to that side and rarely look to this side. Much is said about afforestation, which is all right; but the animals that live there kill human beings and other animals; so a scheme should be drawn up for their protection. A 'Project Tiger' has been launched in Achampet Tehsil of my constituency Nagarkurnool in Andhra Pradesh where human beings and animals are killed by animals

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Do not go to the previous question. If you want to put any supplementary on this, you can do so.

[Translation]

SHRI V. TULSIRAM : I would like to know whether there are any arrangements for this protection of human beings and animals.

[English]

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : The Minister has already replied about the remote sensing research laboratory. Has he taken the help of NRSA. Hyderabad which can delineate geological information in the country and tell about the waste land which can be utilised for growing flora and fauna in different parts of the country? Has this survey been made by the Department with the help of NRSA which had been initiated by Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru? If not, will the Minister deposit funds with the NRSA to get a picture of the whole sub-continent? India is not a country but it is a sub-continent. Will the Minister take the help of NRSA to delineate geological information and then advise the State Government to have afforestation programme accordingly?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You put

a specific question. You cannot go on making a statement like this. You ask a specific question.

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : I have asked. You are not able to understand it. (*Interruption*)

SHRI BIR SEN : I have already said in my reply that survey is being conducted through remote sensing techniques and services of NRSA Hyderabad are also being utilised.

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Whether you had instructed the State Governments . . .

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please sit down.

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : You must protect my right.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Already you have put a question and he has replied. If you want anything further, you can write to the Minister, he will answer you.

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : The late Prime Minister wanted it, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru wanted, Shri Rajiv Gandhi wanted it (*Interruption*).

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I have already protected you and got you the answer. I have given you the chance which you have spoiled. Please sit down now.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Sir, he is using past tense for the present Prime Minister also.

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : I can sit down but you have not protected me. The country will be at a loss. You must understand the gravity of the question (*Interruption*).

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I have already protected you. I have to give chance to others also who are awaiting their turn.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM BHAGAT PASWAN : I would like to know the total area of the barren land in the country which is not under cultivation and whether the Government have formulated any scheme to make such land fertile? If so, what is the scheme? Besides, there is a large area of land which remains submerged in flood waters for as long 9 months in a year and as such cannot be cultivated it. Do you have any scheme to make that land fertile and cultivable?

SHRI BIR SEN : Mr. Deputy speaker, Sir, this question is about the afforestation of wasteland. The question of cultivation of the land does not arise out of it.

[*English*]

SHRI SOMNATH RATH : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to know from the hon. Minister whether any specific steps have been taken to convert the wasteland into social forestry, and if so, what steps have been taken and in which States.

[*Translation*]

SHRI BIR SEN : The name of the agency through which the job is being done, and is still in progress, has been clearly mentioned in Part (b) of the answer. The work on forestry is being carried on for the last 30 years since 1951.

[*English*]

SHRI SOMNATH RATH : My specific question is about social forestry, Sir.

[*Translation*]

SHRI BIR SEN : Yes Sir, I have already said about social forestry.

[*English*]

SHRIMATI PRABHAWATI GUPTA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Prime Minister whether Wasteland Development programme will be linked to industrial processing of agricultural or forest produce to ensure

that optimum utilisation of resources and diversification of employment potential takes place.

SHRI BIR SEN : I could not follow the question, Sir.

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI RAJIV GANDHI) : I think the answer is yes.

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR : Sir, afforestation is an area where constructive schemes can be thought of for providing employment to the unemployed youth in this country. It is possible to generate a mass movement with employment potential as well as social objectives in view. I would like to know whether Government has any imaginative scheme in this regard.

SHRI BIR SEN : Under the Social Forestry Programme, the cooperation of individuals, farmers and the educated unemployed will be sought in raising nurseries and supplying saplings to the farmers and other forest areas. In this way they will be getting employment and money also.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH : I would like to know the places in Bihar where survey has been conducted under the Wasteland Development Scheme, because there is a vast area of Wasteland in Bihar.....(*Interruptions*).....Is Bihar a part of India or not ?

Has any survey been conducted in Bihar or not ? Will you give information about Bihar or not ?

SHRI BIR SEN : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, I have given the answer that we are conducting a survey throughout the country.

SHRI R.S. KHIRHAR : The hon. Minister should reply whether any survey has been conducted in Bihar or not.

SHRI BIR SEN : Survey is being conducted in Bihar also.

[*English*]

Ticket Racket by I.A. Staff

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*203. **SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL :**
SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE :

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to a report published in "Business Standard" of Calcutta, dated 1 March, 1985 under headline "Ticket Racket by Indian Airlines Staff;

(b) if so, the points made;

(c) whether any enquiry has been made by C.B.I. and culprits caught/charge sheeted;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) further action being taken on the basis of published report ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It has been alleged in the article that a group of employees of Indian Airlines at Calcutta are for consideration indulging in malpractices such as helping the passengers to travel without confirmed tickets, to carry excess baggage at concessional rates and to travel on trunk routes at half fares, etc.

(c) to (e). The alleged malpractices of the Airlines staff had come to the notice of the CBI even prior to the publication of the article in the 'Business Standard'. The CBI is seized of the matter. They have completed investigation of three cases against IA staff for irregular allotment of seats to passengers. The CBI are also investigating into other cases referred to them.