

[English]

SHRI JUJHAR SINGH : Is it a fact that Durah game sanctuary in Kota (Rajasthan) is as old and as important as the one in Sariska and the Ranthambhore Game Sanctuary and that the cattle graziers from outside Kota have been allowed to come and settle down in this sanctuary after it was declared as a sanctuary area? What efforts is the Government making to clear the exploitation in this area?

[Translation]

SHRI BHAJAN LAL : Sir, Government have always made their best efforts. So far as the question of giving funds for Ranthambhore Sanctuary is concerned, I would like to inform this House that Rs. 4.00 lakhs were given in 1981-82, Rs. 5.50 lakhs were given in 1982-83, Rs. 1.56 lakhs in 1983-84, Rs. 4.00 lakhs in 1984-85 and Rs. 7.70 lakhs were given in 1985-86.

SHRI JUJHAR SINGH : My question is about something else.

SHRI BHAJAN LAL : You have asked about Ranthambhore to which I have replied. So far as the question of migration of cattle from outside the district or giving them permission for grazing is concerned, the permission is given under a set of rules. It is not that we give step-motherly treatment to one area and indulge in committing excess in another area. It is not like that.

[English]

Development of Wasteland

*128 **SHRI P. M. SAYEED :** Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to adopt any new strategy for the development of wasteland in the country;

(b) whether programmes for increased productivity in dryland have been chalked out; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BHAJAN LAL) :
(a) Yes Sir.

(b) Yer Sir.

(c) The details pertaining to (a) and (b) above are given below in statements I and II respectively.

Statement-I

Action Plan

The Action Plan drawn up by the National Wastelands Development Board and accepted by the State/UT Governments for implementation has the following key elements :—

1. Identification of Wastelands :

Each State/UT Government has been requested to identify wastelands in their territory whether they be in forest area, revenue/common lands or degraded farm lands.

2. People's Involvements :

This will be ensured by the following measures :—

(a) **Decentralised Nurseries :** People's nurseries i.e. kisans, schools, women, youth groups, voluntary agencies, etc., will be motivated to meet the increased demand of seedlings.

(b) **Farm Forestry :** Farmers will be motivated to take up tree farming on their marginal lands and planting on their field bunds. A rational policy in regard to distribution of seedlings should be evolved.

(c) **Tree Growers 'Cooperative :** Tree Growers' Cooperatives should be organised with the involvement of farmers in raising and distribution of seedlings and in tree plantations.

(d) **Voluntary Agencies :** The grass-roots agencies. Mahila Mandals, Youth groups would also be motivated in nursery raising and tree plantations.

(e) Tree Pattas : Strips of land along roads, rails, canals, etc., and other degraded land should be given to the rural poor, with usufruct rights on the trees planted by them on each lands.

3. Nodal Agency :

The State/U.T. Governments have been requested to identify a single nodal agency for ensuring an integrated approach for the implementation of the programme which is being executed by different agencies, official and otherwise.

4. Seed :

The States/U.Ts have been requested to extend the scope of operation of the existing State Seed Corporations to include the production and supply of fodder, grass and legume seeds to farmers on commercial basis.

5. Leasing of Lands :

The States/U.T. Governments have been requested to prepare guidelines for leasing of wastelands for afforestation to the rural poor.

6. Forest based industries :

Must be encouraged to afforest wastelands to produce the raw material needed by them. Industries must also be enthused to raise tree cover on wastelands with a view to provide employment to the rural poor as well as to enable them to grow trees on a remunerative basis. The State Governments have been requested to draw up guidelines for the lease of wastelands to industries in this behalf.

7. Urban Fuelwood and Green Belts :

The States/UTs. have been requested to ensure that town and cities have green belts of fuelwood and fodder plantations to cater to the urban fuelwood and fodder needs.

8. Degraded Forest Areas :

States have been requested to identify degraded forest lands and to reforest them with fuelwood and fodder species.

9. Forest Development Corporations :

The Forest Development Corporations should obtain wastelands on lease from the Government for raising fuelwood and fodder plantations.

10. Government Departments :

Government Departments, public sector undertakings and other bodies/institutions having substantial areas of unutilised lands must bring such land under tree cover.

11. Media and Communication :

A massive publicity campaign through the traditional media of folk art and culture, radio, television and other audio-visual aids should be undertaken to create awareness among the masses.

12. Monitoring and Evaluation :

The States/U.T. Government should evolve appropriate monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to ensure qualitative implementation of the programme.

Statement-II

For the development of dryland agriculture a new Centrally Sponsored Scheme titled the 'National Watershed Development Programme for Rainfed Agriculture' has been sanctioned from 1986-87 to 1989-90. The objective and approach would be :-

- (i) To conserve soil and moisture on watershed basis for crop production.
- (ii) To stabilise and increase crop yield from rainfed farming and to augment the fruit, fodder and fuel resources by use of appropriate alternate land use systems and;
- (iii) To develop and disseminate technologies for the proper soil and moisture conservation methods required

under different conditions to achieve these objectives.

The programme will be implemented in unirrigated arable lands in the country mostly falling in the rainfall range of 500mm to 1125 mm and also above 1125 mm where crop yields can be significantly increased and stabilised by the dissemination of developed technology for scientific rainfed farming. The programme will run in 16 States which includes Assam and 15 such States where pilot projects on water conservation/harvesting technology are in operation. The programme during 7th Plan tentatively covers 9.28 lakhs ha. in about 99 districts of 16 states. The components under the programme are :-

- (1) Land and moisture management for cropping systems introduction, dry-land horticulture, fodder production and farm forestry.
- (2) Contingency seed stocking and supply of Seedlings and grass seed/slips.
- (3) Training (i) Organisation of short term training courses, seminars, field tours for staff and farmers etc., within the State. (ii) Training courses, seminars, study tours etc., at regional/national level.
- (4) Adaptive Research activity—conducting of adaptive trials in small and marginal farmer's fields.
- (5) Improved tools and equipment :
 - (i) Purchase of survey equipment.
 - (ii) Fabrication of adequate number of prototypes of newly designed hand and draught powered tools for testing in the field.
- (6) Preparation of scientific field manuals, publicity material, audio-visual aids for training including video cassettes.

The total outlay on the programme for the remaining four year of the 7th Plan is Rs. 239.00 crores of which Central share is

Rs. 120.00 crores and that of the State Governments Rs. 119.00 crores. The Administrative and financial sanction of this scheme was conveyed to State Governments on 3rd July, 1986.

The physical programmes (9.28 lakh hectares) will be undertaken during 7th Plan as per the watershed projects.

SHRI P. M. SAYEED : Mr. Speaker, Sir, big landlords are grabbing waste land along the Farakka Barrage and also the land formed through soil erosion of Ganga at Sitab Diyara on the borders of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. Government have no control over it. In a situation like this, are the Government taking some steps to distribute the wasteland amongst the landless farmers and unorganised agricultural labourers ? Are the Government going to enact a legislation to make such lands productive ?

SHRI BHAJAN LAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, so far as the question of distributing land among the landless labourers is concerned, there is no question of allotting wasteland to them. If some one is interested in planting trees on such lands, the land is allotted on lease basis so that the poor could plant trees thereon and become the owner of that tree. In this process, lease money goes to the Government. With regard to his second point that big landlords are grabbing such land, he has not brought such a thing to Government's notice earlier. Today, he has brought it to our notice and we shall look into it. We shall not allow anybody to grab land in this manner howsoever big he may be.

SHRI P. M. SAYEED : Is there any proposal under consideration of the Government to set up industries on such wasteland on the lines of Chota Nagpur in Bihar and Haldia in West Bengal ?

SHRI BHAJAN LAL : Sir, so far as the question of setting up industries on wasteland is concerned, no Government undertaking has been allotted land to set up industry. In very exceptional cases, we allot land if it is under the possession of the Government. But a peculiar thing in the case of wasteland is that it is owned partially by the Government and partially by the private people. We cannot allot private

people's land to anybody. If under compelling circumstances, the land is not available, and if there is a scheme to set up an industry, the concerned State Government gets it acquired and then allots it. This is also our endeavour to develop wasteland and to plant trees on it so that environment is kept free of pollution.

DR. CHANDRA SHEKHAR TRIPATHI :
Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the Hon. Minister as to how much wasteland is there in the country and whether any survey has been conducted in this respect? Secondly, the Government have got a number of schemes to make the wasteland productive, but these development schemes cannot be executed, because the Government do not get land. Will the Government start development activities on wasteland on priority basis and if so, what steps are proposed to be taken in this regard in future and by when?

SHRI BHAJAN LAL : Sir, the area of the country as a whole is about 33 crore hectares. The statistics show that about 17.5 crore hectares come under wasteland. We have conducted survey and have also chalked out a programme as to where trees can be planted, where fruit bearing trees can be grown and which of the wasteland is suitable for growing fuel wood. Depending upon the climatic conditions and topography of the area, we shall try to grow whatever is possible on that particular wasteland.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Expert team on pollution danger

*126. **SHRI V. S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN :**
Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any expert team has been set up to study the danger of pollution caused by industries as well as the safety systems existing in industrial units handling hazardous materials; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BHAJAN LAL) :

(a) and (b). Surveys of selected chemical and petrochemical units have been conducted through expert panels, for evolving guidelines and recommendations on safety measures in such units. Expert teams have also been set up in several States for recommending measures for safety in the industrial units handling hazardous chemicals.

Indo-US joint research

*127. **SHRI G. S. BASAVARAJU :**
SHRI H. N. NANJE GOWDA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have identified new areas of Indo-US research in the field of science and technology;

(b) the areas of joint Indo-US research identified;

(c) whether any agreement in this regard has been reached; and

(d) if so, when the implementation of these projects is likely to be taken up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN) : (a) to (d). At the 8th meeting of the Indo-US Sub-Commission on Science and Technology where the progress and emphasis in a wide spectrum of disciplines comes in for a periodic review, held at Washington D C. on September 22-24, 1986 it was decided to further collaboration in the following S and T fields :-

(i) Physical and Material Sciences;

(ii) Earth, Atmospheric and Marine Sciences;

(iii) Energy;

(iv) Environment and Ecology;

(v) Information Science and Technology;

(vi) Health, Medical and Life Sciences,