

(b) The specific recommendations of Commission for establishment of Benches of the High Courts of Allahabad, Madhya Pradesh and Madras were referred to the Governments of Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Tamil Nadu respectively in October, 1986 for their views and comments, in consultation with the Chief Justices of the respective High Courts. The Report of the Commission on the general question of having Benches of the High Courts, was sent to the Government of Karnataka in October, 1986, for their views and comments, on their earlier proposal for establishment of a Bench of the Karnataka High Court at Hubli-Dharwar, in the light of the recommendations of the Commission. The report on the general question was also sent to all the State for their information and guidance on 11.9.87

(c) Definite views, specific/complete proposals have not been received from the Governments of Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka.

(d) No decision can be taken by the Central Government without specific/complete proposals from the concerned State Governments.

[*Translation*]

Effect of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 on Tribals

1473. SHRI CHANDUBHAI DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of tribals in the country are facing difficulties due to Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980;

(b) whether Government propose to make amendments in this Act;

(c) if so, when and the nature of amendments likely to be made; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) No, Sir. Deforestation had been taking place on a large scale in the country. With a view to checking further deforestation, the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 was made effective from 25th October, 1980. The Act made the prior approval of the Central Government necessary for deforestation of Reserved Forest and for use of forest land for non-forest purpose through application of this Act.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d). Do not arise.

[*English*]

Killing of Elephants in Rajaji National Park

1474. SHRI MANDHATA SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether several elephants were killed in Rajaji National Park, Garhwal in Uttar Pradesh in the first half of 1990;

(b) whether illegal sale of ivory is also being practised against the law of the land; and

(c) if so, what action is being taken against the guilty persons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) to (c). Information is being collected and would be placed on the Table of the House.