

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: It does not arise out of the question. It should arise out of the main question. It is not allowed.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, will the hon. Minister be pleased to state that betel farming is being done in Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and some other adjacent areas for long time but beetal harvest is being destroyed due to insects for the last three years. I would like to know that the names of 38 pesticides, which figure in this list are banned in other countries. And as per my information these pesticides are ineffective. The Government has constituted a committee in this regard. I would like to know whether any conclusion drawn by this committee has come to your notice if so, what is the solution of this problem, so that beetal harvesting can be saved and the decrease in the export of beetal leaf which has been suffering for the last three years, can be done away.

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, since hon. Member brought it in my notice I have referred it to the committee. Let us wait for its findings. I am very particular to take action in the matter otherwise how we can go without it. It has become a necessity now-a-days.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Question No. 326. Shri Santosh Kumar Gangwar. I think this has to be replied to by the Ministry of Finance and we are proposing to postpone it to 6.8.92.

[Translation]

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR: Sir, it was a very simple question.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: If you insist I will allow, but if you do not get the information, I will leave it.

[Translation]

SHRI BRISHIN PATEL: It appears that there is something mysterious.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I will allow if the Minister is ready to reply. But if you do not get full information; then there is no use.

### Ban on Use of Timber

\*327. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA:  
DR. AMRIT LAL KALIDAS PATEL:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have banned the use of timber in construction of Government buildings by CPWD;

(b) whether the Government propose to advise the State Governments and private builders also in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

### STATEMENT

(a) to (c). With a view to conserve wood, guidelines have already been issued for encouraging use of alternative materials in building construction. Recently, the matter was considered by the Government and it was decided that, after collecting details of alternative items of acceptable standard and durability available in the market, the Central Public Works Department shall use such substitutes from 1st April, 1993. Use of wood would stand banned from this date.

2. A communication has been sent to the Chief Secretaries of the State Governments/Union Territories impressing upon them to take similar steps and to advise the State Level housing and building

construction agencies for using wood substitutes to the exclusion of wood in the construction works. Housing finance and lending institutions in the housing sector have also been advised to insist on the use of the wood substitutes in the housing and building schemes funded by them.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: It is very good question.

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as the hon. Minister has Stated in his reply that he has requested to the sate Governments and Union Territories to stop the use of timber, I would like to know their reaction in this regard. Secondly I would like to say that the reply of the second part of my question is in-complete. I had asked as to what action has been taken or proposed to be taken by the State Government against the private builders; you have not answered this part of my question. I would like that he should reply whether he has held any discussion with private builders in this regard. If so, their reaction there-to.

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SHEILA KAUL): Sir, the question asked by the hon. Member is very important because as much as we need houses, we need timber and wood also in the same proportion. As result of it we cut trees to fulfill out demands. Therefore, we asked the Ministry of Urban Development to use roll steet, press steel and excluded aluminium in making door and window frams of the new houses and flats to be constructed in future, because we think that example is better than precept so that people may believe that we also implement what we say. Therefore, we have also asked the State Governments to follow these suggestions and these will benefit them. We have also suggested that aluminium should be used in making slutters etc so that the use of timber may be reduced.

MR. SPEAKER: They are asking something about private builders.

SHRIMATI SHEILA KAUL: Private agencies like HUDCO which gives funds for this purpose, have been directed that wherever it provides funds, it should also suggest that the use of timber should be minimum and in place of timber all these things which I have mentioned should be used.

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA: I have not got reply to my question yet. I wanted to know the reaction of the State Governments to the directions or information given to them. In view of the prevailing trend of fast deforestation and the excessive use of wood in buildings, it is essential to stop it, rather the Government proposes to impose a complete check over it from April 1993. It is good, assurances to this effect had been given earlier also. But is the Government satisfied that CPWD would completely stop the use of it from April, 1 1993? Secondly, the question which has not been replied is regarding the reaction of the State Governments. At the same time I would like to know whether the Government has started taking measures as per the guidelines fixed, and if so, the results thereof?

SHRIMATI SHEILA KAUL: We have already written to the State Governments. You know that the Central Government has no control over it, we can just request or give suggestions but we do not want to impose anything nor can we do so. It depends upon them whether they accept or not; rather it is in their own interest that they accept it, because it will improve their efficiency.

SHRI ANNA JOSHI: The Government has sent a circular to the State Governments. He wants to know their reaction.

SHRIMATI SHEILA KAUL: Every State Government has its own reaction. I will convey the reaction of 17-18 States afterwards. At the moment there is no reactions. The Central Government has sent its suggestions (*Interruptions*) CPWD has been doing this work since 1988, but as I have already submitted the Central

Government would start giving proper shape to it by March-April next year.

**DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, in regard to private builders there is a mention of HUDCO. There are so many private building construction Organisations other than HUDCO. Has the Government discussed the matter with them?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Discussion can be held, but instructions cannot be given... (Interruptions)

[English]

**DR. AMRIT LAL KALIDAS PATEL:** Now -a-days, the whole world is worried about the environment. Unfortunately, in our country we are not so concerned as we should have. I talk of my State of Gujarat. In 1975, 10 per cent of land was covered by the jungles. Today only 1.2 per cent of land is covered by the jungles. That shows the destruction of the jungle.

Therefore, to preserve the precious items of wood, the jungle, is the hon. Minister going to encourage the persons who manufacture the items which can replace wood? Today science and technology is well developed and so many items are discovered. I would like to know from the hon. Minister how the Government is going to encourage such industries.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Will you be in a position to reply as to how will you encourage the industry in this area?

[Translation]

**SHRIMATI SHEILA KAUL:** I can give some reply. Recently, when I had been to Pune, on my way, I just visited a factory. What I saw in the factory and the instructions I gave them are as follows. A number of residential colonies were being established and the frames of the widows and doors in those buildings were of cement instead of wood. Thus we may encourage this type of construction.

[English]

**SHRI C.K. KUPPUSWAMY:** Has any study been conducted or assistance given for conducting a study to replace total equipment's made of wood in housing activities by alternatives. If so, what would be the savings involved?

**MR. SPEAKER:** The alternatives are alloy, *loha* aluminium etc. It is already replied.

**SHRI SUDHIR GIRI:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, from the answer given by the hon. Minister, we cannot find whether the alternative items of acceptable standard and durability have been invented as yet. However, 1st April, 1993 has been fixed as a target date for banning the use of timber in Government housing construction.

So, may I know from the hon. Minister whether the quantity of timber which is being used by the Central Government and the State Governments has been assessed.

**SHRIMATI SHEILA KAUL:** I am sorry I am unable to reply this question.

**MR. SPEAKER:** You get the statistics and give them to the hon. Member.

**SHRI MUMTAZ ANSARI:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, Bihar is a poor State but it is very much rich in respect of forest wealth. In this system, as has been stated by the hon. Minister wood will not be used in the construction of the houses in doors and windows and all these things since 1st April, 1993. If all the communications and instructions have been sent to the State Governments also and if they become effective, in Bihar also it will definitely involve extra expenditure to the exchequer of the Bihar Government. So, I would like to know whether there is any proposition or proposal on the part of the Central Government to meet this extra expenditure from the Central exchequer or not.

MR. SPEAKER: Don't you want this to be done or what?

SHRI MUMTAZ ANSARI: Sir, my question is a pertinent question.

SHRIMATI SHEILA KAUL: The hon. Member wants to know whether the Central Government is going to help the State Government in this. I don't think they are in a position to help.

[Translation]

SHRI RATILAL VARMA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, trees are being grown to protect environment and also the forests. But lakhs of carpenters in the country....

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This does not arise out of it. I am disallowing. You insist in putting your question and you do not also put the pertinent question. It has nothing to do with employment. Please take your seat. Not this way. You are holding the House to ransom. You are not allowing other Members to ask the question.

[Translation]

PROF. PREM DHUMAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has suggested to use steel and aluminium in place of wood. I would like to know from her what standards have been fixed for their durability; will be assistance if ISI be taken to ascertain that whatever alternative is used for wood, is of good quality and has a definite standard. I would also like to know whether Steel and Aluminium are available in abundance; least these things would also be in shortage like wood.

SHRIMATI SHEILA KAUL: Sir, I was also concerned about it, thus I enquired about it from the people and tried to gather the required information. When I consulted the experts to know whether the life of equipments made from Aluminium, steel etc. would be short as compared to those of wood, they assured me that these

equipments will certainly have more durability. My opinion is that new systems are introduced only after conducting thorough researches. Otherwise, if the material used in the construction of the house is not durable, the house will collapse; what is the use of such building. Therefore, whatever is manufactured is produced only after a thorough research. The scientists conducting researches in this regard have revealed all this.

### Foodgrains Production in Maharashtra

\* 328. SHRIVILASRAO NAGNATHRAO GUNDEWAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of foodgrains produced in Maharashtra during 1991-92;

(b) whether the Government have drawn up a comprehensive action plan to increase the foodgrains production in Maharashtra;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time by which the plan is proposed to be launched?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) During 1991-92, the total quantity of foodgrains production in Maharashtra is estimated at 80.76 lakh tonnes.

(b) to (d). No, Sir. Government of India have not drawn up any comprehensive action plan to increase the foodgrains production in Maharashtra. However, to supplement the efforts of the State Government to increase foodgrains production, various on-going Central Sector/ Centrally Sponsored Schemes like Integrated Programme for Rice Development, Special Foodgrains Production Programme for Maize & Millets and Pulses and the National Pulses Development Programmes are being implemented. The incentives being provided to the cultivators under these schemes