

[English]

### Encroachment of Forests

53. SHRI VIJAY NAVAL PATIL : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether a large area of forests is eroded every year due to encroachment by people;
- (b) if so, the States adversely affected by encroachment during last two years;
- (c) whether Government have given directions to the State Governments in this regard; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT) : (a) and (b) . Incidents of piecemeal encroachment over forest lands, mainly for extension of subsistence farming, including shifting cultivation, occur all over the country. Such encroachments are generally confined along the cultivated areas situated within or along the periphery of the forests. However, according to the State of Forest Report 1993, reduction in forest cover to the extent of 635 sq. km. has been reported in the North-Eastern states primarily on account of shifting cultivation during the period 1989-91.

(c) and (d) . National Forest Policy, 1988 emphasizes the need to take effective steps to prevent encroachments on forest land. State Governments maintain a constant vigil and also take steps to evict the encroachers through due process of law. Serious efforts are being made to promote peoples, participation in protection and regeneration of forest lands through Joint Forest Management under the guidelines issued by the Central Government in June, 1990.

### Vamsadhara Stage-II Project

54. SHRI RAMAKRISHNA KONATHALA : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

- (a) the present status of Vamsadhara Stage-II project; and
- (b) the time by which the above project is likely to be started ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU) : (a) The Vamsadhara Stage-II Project was found acceptable by the Advisory Committee in December, 1991 for an estimated cost of Rs. 275.74 crores subject to environmental, forests and rehabilitation and resettlement plan clearances from the Ministry of Environment and Forests and the Ministry of Welfare to be obtained by the State Government of Andhra Pradesh. The Government of Andhra Pradesh have now modified the proposal and has renamed the project as Vamsadhara Project Phase-I of Stage-II. The modified report has been received in the Central Water Commission in January, 1996 for an estimated cost of Rs. 527.00 crores for techno-economic appraisal.

(b) The clearance of the project depends upon how soon the State Government complies with observations of the Central

Appraising Agencies on various techno-economic issues and obtains the environmental, forests and rehabilitation and resettlement clearances from the Ministry of Environment and Forests and the Ministry of Welfare.

### Ex-Factory Levy Sugar Price

55. SHRI ANNA JOSHI : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

- (a) whether there is a prescribed formula for fixation of Ex-factory price of levy sugar;
- (b) if so, the details thereof indicating the price fixed for 1995-96. State-wise;
- (c) whether any representation has been received to revise these prices in Maharashtra; and
- (d) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH) : (a) and (b) . As per the provisions of Section 3 (3C) of the Essential commodities Act, 1955 the following factors are to be taken into account in the determination of levy sugar prices :

- (a) Minimum Statutory cane price;
  - (b) Manufacturing cost of sugar;
  - (c) Tax or duty if any, paid or payable thereon and;
  - (d) Reasonable return on the capital employed in the manufacturing of sugar.
- 2.1 So far as (a) is concerned, the minimum statutory cane prices are fixed by the Central Government, under Clause 3 of the Sugarcane (Control) Order 1966.
  - 2.2 In regard to (b) and (d), cost investigation into the sugar industry is periodically entrusted to Bureau of Industrial Cost and Prices which furnish basic conversion (Manufacturing) Costs Schedules for the different pricing zones as well as the element of return to be allowed in levy price fixation.
  - 2.3 In regard to (c) purchase tax, cess, etc. levied by the State Governments on sugarcane are taken into account for computation of levy prices.
  - 2.4 Ex-factory prices of levy sugar for the season 1995-96 have not been fixed so far.

(c) and (d) . Does not arise, in view of the fact that Ex-factory prices of levy sugar for the season 1995-96 are yet to be fixed.

### Medical Councils

56. SHRI PARAS RAM BHARDWAJ : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government have reconstituted the research and development councils of the Indian system of medicines; and
- (b) if so, the date when these were reconstituted ?