

Depletion of Forests

1971. SHRI UDDHAB BARMAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a sharp depletion of forests cover, particularly in North-Eastern region;

(b) if so, the factors responsible therefor; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to restore forest cover?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH):

(a) The State of Forests Report 1993, published by the Forest Survey of India, Dehradun, has indicated in its fourth assessment of the forest cover of the country based on visual interpretation of landsat imagery pertaining to the period 1989-91, that there has been an overall increase of 22 sq. kms in the forest cover of the country as compared to the earlier assessment. The Report of 1993 has, however, pointed out that there has been a decrease of 635 sq. kms of forest cover in the North-Eastern region during the period.

(b) The depletion of forests in the North-Eastern region is primarily on account of large scale shifting cultivation. Other factors include insurgency related problems, encroachments on forest lands, illicit cutting of trees, inter-State boundary dispute, timber trade in District Council areas.

(c) The concerned State Governments have been advised to formulate and implement schemes for rehabilitation of jhoom lands, and to initiate effective steps to curb illicit felling of trees and encroachments by strengthening protection measures and through control of saw mills, enactment of legislation to regulate tree felling in private lands, scientific management of District Council Forests, imposition of restrictions on the movement of timber and other forest produce outside the States, etc.

Financial Assistance to Gujarat for Physical Education

1972. SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Gujarat has requested for financial assistance to improve the standard of physical education in schools of the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Union Government thereon so far; and

(c) the financial assistance allocated/released by the Government to Gujarat during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS) AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKUL WASNIK): (a) No, Sir.

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

Electrification of South-Eastern Railway

1973. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO:
SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the allocation made for electrification of the Adra-Midnapore section and for conversion of unremunerative section on other Zonal railways;

(b) the time by which electrification work of Adra-Midnapore section is likely to be completed;

(c) whether the electrification of Kapali road passenger halt station in the South-Eastern railway has been completed; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) Allocation of Rs. 60 lakhs has been made for the year 1994-95 for electrification of Adra-Midnapore section. Regarding gauge conversion, other than strategic lines, an allocation of Rs. 5.80 crores had been made for conversion of Dhaund-Baramati for 1994-95. This work has since been completed. This was an unremunerative line but the rapid development of area indicates that this line has potential for becoming remunerative.

(b) The target will be fixed on receipt of clearance from Planning Commission.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Service connection estimate for energising this station has been received from Orissa State Electricity Board only on 7.10.94. The tender for this work is under process and the station is expected to be electrified by the end of June '95 subject to release of service connection in time by OSEB.

[Translation]

Inter-city train between Ahmedabad and Patan

1974. SHRI MAHESH KANODIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the inter-city trains running in Gujarat;

(b) whether the Government propose to introduce an inter-city train between Ahmedabad and Patan in Gujarat;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) 2933/2934 Bombay-Ahmadabad Kamavati Express, 9011/9012 Bombay-Ahmadabad Gujarat Express, 9021/9022 Bombay-Surat Flying Rane Express, 9109/9110 Valsad-Ahmadabad Gujarat Queen Express, 9057/9058 Valsad-Vadodara Express and 9153/9154 Ahmadabad-Rajkot/Hapa Express.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Operational and resource constraints.