

It is incorrect to say that there are no takers of wheat and that the rice procured in 1991 is still lying with the Corporation. In fact a negligible quantity of rice of crop 1991-92 is available with the Corporation due to bumper procurement of rice during the last 3-4 years. As for the wheat, as against 87.64 lakh tonnes issued under PDS/open sale in 1993-94, the quantity issued in 1994-95 was 101.56 lakh tonnes and upto October, 1995 during 1995-96 the quantity issued is 50.67 lakh tonnes.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The Food Corporation of India had set up 25 Modern Rice Mills all over country with a view to demonstrate the advantages of modernised rice milling techniques.

(e) It is a fact that during Kharif 1994-95 season, the rice millers had adopted uncooperative attitude in milling paddy procured by FCI and agencies until their demands were met which included implementation of the CFTRI (Central Food Technology Research Institute) Report, reduction in out turn ratio and relaxation of broken percentage upto 40% in rice in the five districts of Punjab viz. Ferozpur, Faridkot, Amritsar, Ludhiana, and Kapurthala. Union Food Ministry, after consulting State Governments and others concerned, has conveyed the decision in the matter of yield and application of single grade specifications on 8th September, 1995 and 28th September, 1995. FCI is seized of the problem of getting the balance paddy milled and is taking necessary measures for the purpose.

KURIYARKUTTY-KARAPPARA POWER PROJECT

1357. **Shri V.S. Vijayaraghavan** : Will the Minister of Environment and Forests be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have given Environmental Clearance to the Kuriyarkutty-Karappara Power Project in Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefore?

The Minister of State of the Ministry of Environment and Forests (Shri Rajesh Pilot) : (a) to (c) No, Sir. The Kuriyarkutty-Karappara Power Project of Kerala was rejected in May, 1983 from environmental angle due to its likely adverse impacts on the evergreen forests in the Western Ghats. An Inter-State Expert Committee constituted subsequently by the Ministry to examine the water and power requirements of Palghat region had suggested modifications based on which revised project proposal is to be prepared by the state authorities. The revised proposal with complete environmental data and Management Plans is still awaited.

'FELLING OF TREES IN UTTAR PRADESH'

1358. **Dr. P.R. Gangwar** : Will the Minister of Environment and Forests be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the illegal felling of trees in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) the number of trees out down the bank of Sharda River in the North of Pilibhit district and in National Dudhawa park separately, during 1994-95 till date;

(c) the action taken against guilty parsons; and

(d) the measurastanen by the Government to check it?

The Minister of State of the Ministry of Environment and Forests (Shri Rajesh Pilot) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected from the state government and will be laid on the Table of the House.

GIRL CHILD

1359. **Shri Sarat Pattanayak** : Will the Minister of Human Resource Development be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to a UNICEF's Report about the missing of girl child on large scale in India; and

(b) if so, reaction of the Government thereto?

The Minister of State of Ministry of Human Resources Development (Department of Women and Child Development) (Kumari Vimla Verma) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The report is about the adverse child Sex-ratation in the country which shows lesser number of girls compared to boys. This is a refelection of gender bias against girls and the unequal status of women. However, as a result of the enabling framework of the Constitution and various women-specific and women-related laws that provide equality for women and a series of programmatic initiatives, both by Government and by Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), the status of women as measured by indices like literacy, life expectancy, work participation rate has improved. Prenatal Sex Determination technique (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Act, 1994 regulate sex-determination tests to prevent their misuse. A few states have taken legal steps for banning female foeticide.

Attempts are also being made to project positive images of girl child so as to bring about changes in mind-sets and societal attitudes towards them. Various programmes of action and advocacy are also being implemented by the Government in the country for the welfare and development of women and girl child. The

Government has also initiated a media campaign to generate awareness on various issues relating to Girl Child. A National Plan of Action for the SAARC Decade (1991-2000 A.D.) for the Girl Child focussing on survival, protection and development of the girl child has been formulated. A special set of intervention of adolescent girls has been institutionalised through the ICDS structure.

Government of Tamil Nadu and Haryana have launched schemes to improve the Status of the girl children of poor families by focussing on the survival, education and development of girl child.

EDUCATION FOR ALL

1360. **Shri Datta Meghe** : Will the Minister of Human Resource Development be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Maharashtra has sent any proposal to the Union Government for introducing "Education for all" scheme in the State under the World Bank Aided programme; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Human Resource Development (Department of Education) (Dr. Krupasindhu Bhoi) : (a) and (b) Maharashtra is one of the seven states of Assam, Haryana, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra where 'District Primary Education Programme' (DPEP) with assistance from International Development Association (World Bank) is already under implementation. The programme aims at Universalization of Elementary Education (UEE) through district specific planning and disaggregated target setting. The programme lays great emphasis on participatory processes for planning and management; emphasises capacity building at all levels; has a marked tribal and gender focus; and lays special emphasis on the education of disadvantaged groups like SCs, STs and Women.

"DEFORESTATION AT EASTERN GHATS"

1361. **Shri S.M. Laljan Basha** : Will the Minister of Environment and Forests be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have launched any plan to protect the Eastern Ghats from deforestation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the government held any discussions with the Government of Andhra Pradesh and Orissa in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to develop forests in the Region?

The Minister of State of the Ministry of Environment and Forests (Shri Rajesh Pilot) : (a) and (b) Constant efforts are being made to arrest deforestation all over the country including Eastern Ghat regions. However, there is no specific plan exclusively for the Eastern Ghat regions. The measures adopted to prevent deforestation include the following.

1. Indian Forest Act, 1927 and wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 are in force to check forest and wildlife offences.
2. There is a check exercised by the Government of India on diversion of forest land for non-forestry purposes under the provision of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.
3. Modern means of communications like wireless sets, fast speed vehicles etc. are provided to protective staff. Flying squads patrol sensitive areas to check illicit removal of forest produce.
4. Joint Forest Management has been introduced in the country to allow people's participation in the management of forests.
5. Use of gobar gas and natural gas as alternatives to fuelwood is encouraged.
6. Fuel efficient chulahs are introduced in the habitations surrounding forests.
7. Wood substitutes and recycling of materials is encouraged to reduce pressure on forests.
8. Awareness campaigns are organised to protect tree growth.

(c) to (e) In respect of Andhra Pradesh and Orissa, externally aided projects with assistance from the World Bank and Swedish International Development Authority respectively are under implementation. In addition afforestation and tree planting activities are taken up under the schemes of State Forest Department and Central Government like Integrated Afforestation and Eco-Development project Scheme, Minor Forest Produce Scheme, Soil Conservation Scheme.

[Translation]

"ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS"

1362. **Shri Ram Vilas Paswan** : Will the Minister of Environment and Forests be pleased to refer to state :

(a) whether with rapid industrialisation due to liberalisation of economy, environmental problems are likely to increase in the future; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken by the Governments to tackle these problems?