

Poverty in the Seventh Five Year Plan

2527. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is proposed to give new thrust to Forestry in the Seventh Five Year Plan to improve and strengthen the husbandry of the forests of the country and to raise the productivity of the forests for meeting the essential needs of the people and the nation on a sustained basis; and

(b) if so, the broad features of the proposed plan and the nature of the improvement anticipated to be made in this behalf in the Sunderbans area of West Bengal ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI VIR SEN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The broad features are to afforest as speedily as possible all denuded areas including mangroves. About 5000 hectares in Sunderbans of West Bengal are proposed to be afforested at a cost of Rs. 4.5 crores (5 % or so of the forestry sector outlay) during the Seventh Five Year Plan. These figures are tentative since the VII Five Year Plan is yet to be finalised. This would help minimise wind and wave-induced soil erosion and would stabilise the unique mangrove eco-system in Sunderbans. It would also provide gainful employment to the communities in and around the area.

High Cost of Power Through Nuclear Power

2528. SHRI DHARAM VIR SINGH TYAGI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) cost of generating one MW of energy in a nuclear power plant;

(b) is it cheaper than the cost of hydel and thermal power per MW;

(c) if not, the reasons for the Government's recent decision to step up the production of nuclear energy; and

(d) whether Government will reconsider its policy of increased generation of

energy through nuclear power plants in view of its higher cost per unit, environmental hazards and comparatively short life of the nuclear reactors ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, SPACE AND ELECTRONICS (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL) : (a) The prevailing rate of supply of electricity from nuclear power stations in the country is in the range of 35 to 42 paise/Kwh. This includes a rate of return on investment of 12%.

(b) Nuclear electricity is cheaper than electricity produced by coal-fired thermal power plants in the locations being considered. Comparison with hydel power had not been carried out, as it would be desirable to exploit all available resources of hydel power.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) International studies on risks and benefits of various energy sources indicate that use of nuclear energy for electricity generation is an environmentally benign option and has relatively less overall impact on the environment compared to coal-fired power stations. The design life of nuclear power stations and coal-fired power plants is identical.

Nuclear Free Zone in Indian Ocean and South Asia

2529. SHRI DHARAMVIR SINGH TYAGI : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the statement of the Prime Minister in the course of his interview to Miss Daniela Kuneva of the Bulgarian TV about the desirability of establishing a nuclear free Zone in the Indian Ocean implies India's recognition of denuclearisation of the Indian Ocean as a part of the Indian Ocean Peace Zone proposal; and

(b) whether the said statement of the Prime Minister signals India's rethinking over her erstwhile stand on the proposal for establishing a nuclear free Zone in South Asia ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI KHURSEED ALAM KHAN) : (a) India supports UN Resolution 2832 (XXVI) of 1971 on the establishment off a Zone of Peace in the Indian Ocean. This resolution, inter alia, calls upon the Great Powers to eliminate from the Indian Ocean "all bases, military installations and logistical supply facilities, the disposition of nuclear weapons and weapons of mass destruction and any manifestation of Great Power military presence in the Indian Ocean conceived in the context of Great Power rivalry."

(b) No, Sir.

**Recommendations of Haldipur Committee
Re : Tribal Areas**

2530. SHRI GIRIDHARI GOMANGO : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry has examined the personnel policy recommended by the Haldipur Committee regarding the tribal areas;

(b) if so, the main recommendations in the reports and the recommendations adopted and communicated to the concerned Ministries and the States; and

(c) if not, the reasons for delay ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The main recommendations in the Working Group report related to monetary and other compensations and incentives to be given to officers posted in the tribal areas. They also covered policy regarding recruitment, qualification, training and reservation. This report was taken as a basic policy paper for formulation of the Tribal Sub-Plan during the Fifth Plan. For implementation of the recommendations relating to monetary incentives, 7th Finance Commission awarded Central grants-in-aid to the States. These were made available to them during 1979-84. The 8th Finance Commission have also awarded Central assistance to the States which will

be made available to them from 1979-84 onwards.

(c) Does not arise.

**New Zealand's Policy to Bar Entry of
Foreign Nuclear Armed Vessels into
their Ports**

2531. SHRI DHARAMVIR SINGH TYAGI : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the policy of the new Labour Government of New Zealand Barring the entry of foreign nuclear armed vessels into their ports; and

(b) whether Government propose to follow a similar course by not allowing the nuclear warships of foreign countries into the Indian ports ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI KHURSHEED ALAM KHAN) : (a) The New Zealand Government's decision to bar the entry of foreign nuclear armed ships into its ports is similar to the Government of India's perceptions and policies in this regard.

(b) The Government of India does not permit warships of any nation, which are equipped with nuclear arms, to visit Indian ports.

**Conversion of SCs/STs Through Allurements
by Roman Catholic Church, West Bengal!**

2532. SHRI R.P. DAS : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the activities of the Roman Catholic Church based in Krishnagar, West Bengal;

(b) the landed properties it has acquired in the recent past and the total assets it holds now in Krishnagar;

(c) whether Government are aware that this Church has long been engaged in converting faith of some of the people of the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes through material allurements in the district of Nadia, West Bengal; and