

**Rate of Afforestation**

611. SHRI V.S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the rate of afforestation during the last four years;

(b) how does it compare with the deforestation that has taken place during this period;

(c) the special measures being taken to increase the forests ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BIR SEN) : (a) The average rate of afforestation during the last four years has been 0.83 million hectares per annum,

(b) Figures on the exact extent of deforestation due to various reasons are not available. The average rate of deforestation authorised under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, has been 5896 hectares per annum.

(c) The annual pace of afforestation both within and outside forests was stepped up from 0.4 million hectares in 1980-81 to 1.2 million hectares in 1984-85. This tempo will be further intensified during the ensuing VIIIth Five Year Plan. It is proposed to afforest 5 million hectares per year during the VII plan period. With the setting up of the National Wasteland Development Board, this effort is proposed to be substantially augmented with people's participation.

**Deciphering of Indus Script**

612. SHRI V.S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN : Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether efforts are being made at present to decipher the Indus script;

(b) if so, whether any success has been achieved in this matter; and

(c) if not, the nature of difficulties being experienced in deciphering these scripts ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND CULTURE (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). While a number of valuable studies have been made, there is a lack of unanimity amongst the decipherers themselves regarding the nature of the Harappan language and script. In the absence of any positive evidence like a bilingual seal or epigraph, the claimed decipherment of Indus script can be regarded as an effort.

**Development of More Tourist Sports in Kerala**

613. SHRI K. KUNJAMBU : Will the the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state .

(a) whether Government of Kerala has sent any schemes for developing more tourist spots in Kerala; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the decision of Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT) : (a) and (b). The State Government of Kerala had forwarded 28 schemes for implementation with central assistance amounting to Rs. 647.70 lakhs. In view of the constraints on resources, the Department agreed to provide assistance to 4 schemes relating to parking facilities and Wynad and provision of boats/equipment for introduction of water sports at Thekkady, Quilon and Kumarkom at an estimated cost of Rs. 52.42 lakhs.

**Tourism Traffic to Orissa**

614. SHRI K. PRADHANI : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether any measures have been taken by the Ministry to fully exploit the vast potential demand for tourist traffic to the Bhubaneswar/Konark/Puri Sector in Orissa in consultation with the Government of Orissa, Railways and the Indian Airlines; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT) : (a) and (b). To exploit the tourist potential of various centres in Orissa, the Central Department of Tourism in consultation with the State Government have identified the following two circuits :

1. Bhubaneswar — Puri — Konarak — Dabuli—Ratnagiri— Lalitgiri— Udaigiri—Bhadrak — Chandipur— Chiching—Joshiapur (Simlipal) and back.
2. Bhubaneswar—Chilka Lake—Gopalpur on-Sea—Taptapani—Koraput —Bolangir—Jharsuguda — Angul —Tikkarpara— Talcher — Bhubaneswar.

In order to cater to the tourist traffic Indian Airlines operate following services to/from Bhubaneswar :

1. 4 times a week with B-737 and on remaining 3 days week with F-27 on Calcutta-Bhubaneswar sector.
2. 4 times a week with B-737 on Hyderabad Bhubaneswar sector.
3. 5 times a week with B-737 on Delhi/ Bhubaneswar via Varanasi.

**Report of Roy Burman Committee on Forests and Tribals in India**

615. SHRI K. PRADHANI : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have got examined the Report of the Roy Burman Committee on Forests and Tribals in India (1982) with a view to have an appraisal of the success of the strategy of the sub-plan approach to tribal development advocated in the Fifth and Sixth Five Year Plans;

(b) how far the investment on tribal development has actually led to tribal development; and

(c) the conclusions arrived at and how these will be followed up in having a more

dynamic approach towards tribal development in the Seventh Plan ?

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

(b) The investment has led to the economic social and educational advancement of tribals.

(c) The Working Group on the development of Scheduled tribes for the Seventh Plan proposed to continue the strategy of sixth plan with sharper focus on development of vulnerable areas and groups, improvement of tribals, environment and protecting the distinctive culture and way of life of the tribals.

**Acute Fuelwood Shortage**

616. SHRI K. PRADHANI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether India is likely to face an acute fuelwood shortage by the end of this century;

(b) if so, whether Government have framed any long-term plan for launching a massive bio-gas programme in the country which will also have an impact on the hygiene and health of the Indian rural environment;

(c) if so, broad outlines of the plan and whether along with this, any programme for raising tree lands and fuelwood plantations and raising of potential productivity of natural forests for deriving more fuelwood has been drawn up and will be implemented;

(d) if so, the main features thereof; and

(e) whether beginning of these programmes will be made in the tribal areas of Orissa and Madhya Pradesh ?

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) India is likely to face an acute fuelwood shortage