

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the powers and responsibility entrusted to his Ministry (C.T.D. Division) as Nodal Ministry for Tribal Development;

(b) whether the State Governments have also made the Tribal Development Departments as Nodal Department to execute the policies of Tribal sub-plan areas;

(c) if so, the names of the States which have so far adopted this procedure; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and alternate procedure adopted State-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA) : (a) As per Government of India (Allocation of Business) Rules 1961, the powers and responsibilities entrusted to the Ministry of Home Affairs for Tribal Development has been prescribed. The Ministry of Home Affairs is the nodal Ministry for overall policy, planning and coordination of programmes of development for Scheduled Tribes. In regard to sectoral programmes and schemes of development of this community, policy; planning, monitoring, evaluation etc., as also their coordination will be the responsibility of the concerned central Ministries, State Governments and Union Territory Administrations. Each Central Ministry and Department will be the nodal Ministry or Department concerning its sector.

(b) and (c). In all the States having tribal sub-plan the Department dealing with tribal development discharges the functions as nodal department.

(d) Does not arise.

Suicide Bid by Former Head Constable in Tihar Jail

3516. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to the news item captioned 'Ex-Constable's futile bid to end life in Tihar Jail' appearing in the "Patriot" dated 18 July, 1985;

(b) if so, whether a former Delhi Police Head Constable lodged in Tihar Jail tried to commit suicide on 17 July, 1985;

(c) if so, the facts thereof; and

(d) whether any enquiry has been made to find the cause for such action ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The accused lodged in the Tihar Jail, New Delhi as an undertrial prisoner had tried to commit suicide on 17.7.85 by allegedly swallowing glass pieces from a broken electric bulb. He was immediately rushed to the Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital for treatment and is now alright.

(d) Yes, Sir. The Tihar Jail authorities after a preliminary enquiry have referred the matter to the Delhi Police, alongwith the statement given by the undertrial, for further investigations.

[Translation]

Measures to Check Destruction of Forests

3517. SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether lakhs of trees are used every year for conversion of gravel roads into bitumen roads;

(b) whether it is a fact that as a result of this many forests have been destroyed and the farm Wood is not utilised properly; and

(c) whether Government will adopt some other measures to check the destruction of forests and to maintain ecology and greenery if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI VIR SEN) : (a) and (b). Fuelwood is a conventional source for heating of bitumen used in road-making. No information is, however, available on the number of trees used for the purpose.