

Loss of Ravine Lands

1091. SHRI SYED MASUDAL HOSSAIN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the country is losing almost 8000 hectares or ravine land every year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) steps taken to check this; and

(d) the result achieved so far from such steps ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) and (b). According to the Report of National Commission on Agriculture (1976), the country is losing annually about 8,000 hectares of agricultural land. This is due to formation of gullies and ravines on account of increased human pressure on land, extension of cultivation to the marginal and submarginal lands, removal of essential vegetation cover and inadequate programmes for protection of table lands and stabilisation of gullies and ravines.

(c) and (d). The Central Government launched a Centrally sponsored scheme during 1961-62 to carry out surveys for identification and categorisation of ravinous areas for enabling formulation of suitable programmes. An area of 8.3 lakh ha. was surveyed in the States of Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Gujarat. Three Soil Conservation Research Demonstration and training Centres were set up in the ravinous areas at Agra (Uttar Pradesh), Kota (Rajasthan) and Vasad (Gujarat). These Centres through research projects and Job-to-Land programme developed suitable package of practices including the appropriate species of tree and horticultural plantations and also grass for pasture development. A National policy was formulated during 1967 for reclamation and development of ravinous areas on watershed basis. This was also pursued

through Central Ravine Reclamation Board and inter-Ministerial Working Group. A Central Sector scheme of pilot project for ravine reclamation was launched during the Fourth Plan in the States of Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Gujarat. In accordance with the decision of the National Development Council, the scheme was transferred to State Sector on 1.4.1979. Prior to its transfer, till 1978-79, an area of 36.670 ha. was treated at a cost of Rs. 649.22 lakhs. Availing the funds through different soil conservation schemes, upto the end of 1984-85 an, area of about 1.5 lakh ha. was covered under State Sector programmes.

The Central Soil and Water Conservation Research and Training institute and its centres through evaluation studies have concluded that the programmes implemented were useful and helped to enhance the crop productivity and fuel-cum-fodder for the beneficiaries. Based on the recommendations of the working Group on Land Reclamation and Development for formulation of Seventh Five Year Plan (1985-90), the Working Group on Accelerated Development of Dacoit Prone Areas of Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan and also considering the magnitude of the problem in Gujarat a Centrally sponsored scheme for ravine reclamation and development with an outlay of Rs. 102.7 crores for treating 2.04 lakh ha. in the States of Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Gujarat was proposed for the Seventh Plan. A token provision of Rs. 10 lakhs has been kept for 1985-86 in anticipation of the final approval of the scheme.

Mine Accidents During 1984-85

1092. SHRI JAGANNATH PRASAD : will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) number of mine accidents occurred during the year 1984-85 and the number of labourers killed in these accidents as compared to those killed during the last year;

(b) the punishment awarded to the officers responsible therefor and the details of efforts made by the Government to avoid such accidents in future;

(c) whether adequate compensation has been given to the families of labourers killed in mine accidents, if so, the amount paid; and

(d) the number of those families who have not been given compensation indicating the reasons for delay in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI T. ANJIAH) : (a) the number of, accidents and the number of persons killed in mines during the years 1983 and 1984 are given below :—

Year	No. of accidents	No. of persons killed
1983	220	266
1984	222	251

(b) The number of prosecution cases instituted by the Directorate General of Mines Safety during 1983 and 1984 for violation of provisions of the Mines Act, 1952 and the rules and regulations made thereunder are as follows :

Year	No. of prosecutions	Cases instituted
1983	102	
1984	94*	(*Provisional)

Government keeps a constant watch on the safety condition in mines and appropriate instructions are issued periodically to Inspectors of Mines safety for more frequent and effective inspections of mines.

(c) and (d). Compensation is payable under the Workmen's Compen-

sation Act, 1923, which is administered by the State Governments.

Export of Indian Films to USA

1093. SHRI BRAJAMOHAN MOHANTY : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the number of films imported from U.S.A. for exhibition in India during the years 1982, 1983, 1984 and the first six months in 1985 and the number of Indian films exported to the U.S.A. during the same period;

(b) whether it is fact that Indian films are not marketable in U.S.A.;

(c) whether any study has been conducted to know as to why Indian films are not popular in U.S.A.; and

(d) the steps Government have taken to promote the exhibition of Indian films in U.S.A. ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI V. N. GADGIL) : (a) The number of films imported into India from U.S.A. and the number of Indian films exported to U.S.A./Canada, which is treated as one territory for export of films, is as under :—

Year	Number of Films	
	Imported from U.S.A.	Exported to U.S.A./Canada
1982-83	82	50
1983-84	87	50
1984-85	13	19
1985-86	57	2

(upto 30.9.85).

(b) No, Sir.