

without prior approval of RBI both for the industrial units in large and medium as well as in small scale sectors. Banks and financial institutions are expected to prepare rehabilitation packages for those units which are found to be potentially viable. The organisational set-up in the banks and financial institutions has also been strengthened to tackle this problem. A special legislation viz. Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985 has been enacted and Government have set up a Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction in terms of the provisions of this Act to take various measures pertaining to sick industrial companies.

Denudation of Forest

3597. SHRI HUSSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recent irregularity in monsoon is mainly due to de-forestation of mountain tops;

(b) whether the implementation of the social forestry programme is the only panacea to this problem;

(c) the effective steps contemplated to restore rich forestry on barren mountain tops and surrounding areas; and

(d) whether Government will revive its old slogan of 'Grow more trees' and take requisite measures to implement the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI): (a) Scientific evidence to establish that the recent irregularity in monsoon is mainly due to deforestation of mountain tops and depletion of forests elsewhere does not exist.

(b) Social forestry afforestation is one of the means to reduce the pressure on forests.

(c) Apart from stepping up afforestation activities, the following guidelines have been issued to the State Governments to conserve forests in hills and mountains:

- (i) to avoid clearfelling of natural forests, and, where such fellings are inevitable, it should be restricted to areas not exceeding 10 hectares in the hills and 25 hectares in the plains,
- (ii) to consider banning of felling in the hills above 1000 metres, at least for some years,
- (iii) to identify critical areas in the hills and mountains which require protection from felling of forests and need immediate vigorous afforestation.

(d) The Government are endeavouring to propagate tree-planting and enlisting people's cooperation for their protection by all means possible, including use of appropriate slogans.

Establishment of Marine Technology Institute

3598. SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh requested the Union Government to establish Marine Technology Institute at Visakhapatnam;

(b) if so, when the decision will be taken to establish Marine Technology Institute at Visakhapatnam; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Due to non-availability of funds during the Seventh Plan, the Department of Ocean Development could not take up the proposal for the establishment of the Institute of Marine Technology.