

three-tier AC Coaches in the trains running in Madurai-Bangalore section:

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) No, not at present.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) A.C. 3 tier coaches being manufactured by the Railways are having air brake system and are being progressively deployed on trains getting converted into Air Brake.

Representations from Jamnagar

1494 SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) whether representations have been received from Jamnagar regarding extension of long distance trains upto Dwarka, increase in reservation quota at Jamnagar station and change in time schedules of Saurashtra Janata, Saurashtra Express and Intercity Express

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) : From time to time, representations are being received in this regard from Members of Parliament and others including Passenger Associations of Jamnagar.

(c) The extension of long distance trains upto Dwarka, Change in timings of Saurashtra Janata Express, Saurashtra Express and Hapa-Rajkot-Ahmadabad Express have been examined but not found feasible due to operational exigencies.

Regarding increase in reservation quota at Jamnagar, this station has been provided with a Passenger Reservation System (PRS) and has access to the entire quota on Mumbai PRS on first-come-first served basis. For the trains in which specific quota has been allotted after computerisation of reservation at Jamnagar, the quotas are reviewed periodically and adjustment are made on the basis of utilisation to the extent possible.

Forest Cover

1495 SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA

DR. PRABIN CHANDRA SARMA

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of reserve as well as total forest cover during 1985 and as on date, State-wise;

(b) whether deforestation/illegal felling of trees at the rate of 47,000 hectares annually has brought down the forest cover in the country to ten per cent only;

(c) the main causes of the low percentage of forest cover

(d) the impact of deforestation on environment and ecology of the area; and

(e) the effective measures/scheme being taken and proposed to be taken by the Union and State Governments to arrest the deforestation activities and increase the forest cover?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) The Statewise details of the forest cover for the period 1985-87, 1989-91 and that of reserved forest for the period 1987-89 are given in the Statement enclosed.

(b) As per the State of Forest Report, 1993 the area under the forest cover in the country is 64.01 million hectares which is 19.47% of the total geographical area of the country.

(c) The main causes for sub-optimal forest cover in the country are excessive biotic pressure with increasing human and cattle population, encroachments, lack of natural regeneration due to excessive grazing, shifting cultivation, forest fires, diseases, natural calamities like floods, droughts, cyclones, avalanches, etc.

(d) The impact of deforestation on environment and ecology of the area are as under

- Land degradation and impoverishment of the soil due to heavy erosion caused by rain, wind etc.
- The loss of gene-pool, bio-diversity and wildlife habitats of great biological significance.
- Lowering of productivity thereby leading to lesser production of biomass for use of humans and animals.
- Extinction of rare and threatened species of plants and animals.
- Deterioration of life-support systems including water resources.

(e) The effective measures/scheme being taken and proposed to be taken by the Union and State Governments to arrest the deforestation activities and increase the forest cover are as under

- Enactment of Forest Conservation Act, 1980 to regulate diversion of forest land for non-forestry purposes.
- Implementation of Indian Forest Act, 1927 and Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 to check forest and wildlife offences.

- Conservation of rare and threatened species of wildlife and unique habitats of great biological significance through implementation of special programmes like Project Tiger, Project Elephant, etc.
- Large scale afforestation/reforestation under Central and State Government schemes.
- Encouraging wood substitution and promoting fuel saving devices to reduce consumption of wood.
- Extending agro-forestry and integrated wastelands development programmes over non-forest area to reduce pressure on the natural forests.
- Implementation of Joint Forest Management with the involvement of village communities and voluntary agencies in protection and regeneration of forests.

	1	2	3	4	5
22. Tamil Nadu			17715	17726	18,838.00
23. Tripura			5325	5538	3,847.09
24. Uttar Pradesh			33844	33961	36,151.55
25. West Bengal			8394	8186	7,054.00
26. Andaman & Nicobar Island			7624	7624	2,929.00
27. Chandigarh			8	5	1.94
28. Dadra & Nagar Haveli			205	206	203.08
29. Delhi			22	22	42.00
30. Lakshadweep			-	-	-
31. Pondicherry			-	-	-
Total			640122	640107	414916.165

STATEMENT

(Area: Sq. km.)

S. No.	Name of the State/UT	Total Forest Cover for the period		Reserved Forest for the period
		1985-87	1989-91	
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	47911	47256	50,075.29
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	68763	68661	15,321.35
3.	Assam	26058	24508	17,927.81
4.	Bihar	26934	26587	5,051.00
5.	Goa (including Daman and Diu)	1300	1250	651.976
6.	Gujarat	11670	12044	13,763.88
7.	Haryana	563	513	229.47
8.	Himachal Pradesh	13377	12502	1,896.00
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	20424	20443	20,173.74
10.	Karnataka	32100	32343	28,610.53
11.	Kerala	10149	10336	9,152.11
12.	Madhya Pradesh	133191	135396	80,976.01
13.	Maharashtra	44058	43859	42,722.00
14.	Manipur	17885	17621	1,463.00
15.	Meghalaya	15690	15769	980.63
16.	Mizoram	18178	18697	7,127.00
17.	Nagaland	14356	14348	8,625.00
18.	Orissa	47137	47145	26,107.61
19.	Punjab	1151	1343	43.36
20.	Rajasthan	12966	13099	12,301.74
21.	Sikkim	3124	3119	2,650.00

Fishing Harbour

1496. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Kerala has submitted any proposal for setting up of a Fishing Harbour at Ponnani in Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the response of the Government thereto and the time by which the same is likely to be approved?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) to (c) The project proposal received from the State Government for Rs. 916.00 lakhs was examined and the State Government have been requested to carryout model studies and to prepare a Techno-Economic Feasibility Report to ensure the technical soundness and economic viability of the project. The revised report is awaited from the State Government.

[Translation]

Bhopal Gas Tragedy

1497. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases of Bhopal gas tragedy in which the Welfare Commissioner, Bhopal rejected the representations submitted for revising the category of compensation during the last three years;

(b) whether as per the judgement of the Supreme Court the rejected cases would be revived;

(c) whether the Welfare Commissioner, Bhopal has displayed the list of such cases on the notice board;