

**Causes of Desorestation**

2523. SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMAN-  
GO: Will the Minister of AGRICUL-  
TURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has identified the causes and the reasons of deforestation;

(b) if so, the details therefor and the steps taken by Government to check further deforestation so far;

(c) the names of the schemes and programmes started by the states and the guidelines issued by his Ministry to the States in this regard; and

(d) whether he is aware of the problems of the tribals living in and around the forests and incorporated the provision to protect the socio-economic interest of the tribals in Forest Amendment Act?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN  
THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE  
(SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA):

(a) Yes, Sir. This Ministry has identified the causes and reasons of deforestation. The main causes of deforestation are:—

(i) Diversion of forest areas for non-forest purposes.

(ii) Encroachments in forests.

(iii) Shifting Cultivation.

(b) and (c) An area of 4.3 million ha. of forest land was deforested for various purposes from 1951-52 to 1979-80. To curb indiscriminate diversion of forest land the Forest (conservation) Act 1980 was enacted which requires prior approval of Central Government for any dereservation of reserved forest or diversion of any forest land to non-forest purpose.

(ii) About 6 lakh ha. are estimated to be under encroachment in various States. The State Governments who are primarily concerned with the protection of forests have been progressively strengthening forest law and enforcement machinery to provide better protection against encroachments.

In addition, a Task Force has been constituted by this Ministry to study the problem of encroachments in forest areas and suggest means for stopping such encroachments.

(iii) About 10 lakh ha. are estimated to be under shifting cultivation. In the Union Territories of Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh the Central Government is implementing a scheme to settle the shifting cultivators on permanent cultivation. However, in order to study the problem in the country in detail and suggest suitable measure, a Task Force is being constituted.

In order to rehabilitate and augment the forests, afforestation programmes were launched since 1951-52 i.e. beginning of the First Five Year Plan. The progress achieved so far is:—

(1) 35,57,427 ha. area has been afforested from 1951-52 to 1979-80.

(2) 32,255 lakh seedlings have been planted between 1980-81 to 1982-83 (upto 31.1.1983.)

(3) In addition, the following Centrally Sponsored Schemes and programmes have been taken up by the States:—

(a) Social Forestry including Rural Fuelwood Plantations.

(b) Soil, Water and Tree Conservation in the Himalayas (OPERATION SOIL-WATCH).

(d) The Government is aware of the problems of the tribals living in and around the forests and it is their constant endeavour to solve them. The amendment to the Indian Forest Act would take into account the interests of the tribals.

**Reviewing the Planning and Development of Urban areas**

2524. SHRI MOHAMMAD ASRAR AHMAD: Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to undertake a review of the planing and deve-