

### Development Projects Stalled Due to New Forest Laws

2202. SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA :  
Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE  
be pleased to state :

(a) whether various development projects such as roads, bridges, drinking water, school and hospital buildings are at a standstill on account of the new forest laws which place a total restriction on use of forest land even for Government rural development projects as these are to be cleared by Central Government ; and

(b) whether any M.Ps have been writing to Government for taking necessary and suitable steps in the matter and if so, the corrective action taken or proposed to be taken ?

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

(a) The only new forest law is the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. It is not true that it places total restriction on use of forest land for even Government Projects. It actually provides for prior approval of the Central Government in any case, involving diversion of forest land to non-forest purpose or dereservation of any reserved forest. The principle objective of the Act is to check indiscriminate use of forest land for non-forest purposes. To ensure that the provisions of the Act do not hold up the execution of development projects, detailed guidelines have been laid down and the procedure for submission of proposals to the Central Government has been simplified. Besides, proposals for release of forest lands are considered on priority by the Central Government.

(b) Letters from some Members of Parliament have been received, which have been attended to promptly. Such letters have mostly requested for early clearance of particular projects and to delays in processing of proposals. On

examination, it was found that proposals were generally pending at the State level. Hence, detailed guidelines have been laid down to expedite disposal of cases arising under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and the State Governments have been advised to gear up the machinery for this purpose, as well as to monitor the progress regularly.

बिट्ठलभाई पटेल भवन में संसद सदस्यों  
के लिए कैंटीन की व्यवस्था

2203. श्री दया राम शाक्य : क्या  
निर्माण और आवास मंत्री यह बताने की  
कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या बिट्ठलभाई पटेल भवन  
में कई संसद सदस्य निवास करते हैं ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो वहां संसद सदस्यों  
और उनके मेहमानों के लिए कैंटीन की  
व्यवस्था न करने के क्या कारण हैं ;

(ग) क्या सरकार का विचार वहां  
एक कैंटीन की व्यवस्था करने का है,  
और

(घ) यदि हां, तो इसकी व्यवस्था  
कब तक की जाएगी और यदि नहीं तो  
तत्सम्बन्धी कारण क्या हैं ?

निर्माण और आवास मंत्रालय में उप  
मन्त्री (श्री मोहम्मद उस्मान आरिफ) :

(क) जी हां ।

(ख) और (घ) कैंटीन की व्यवस्था  
करने के प्रस्ताव पर आवास समिति की  
6-1-84 को हुई बैठक में चर्चा की गई  
थी । इस समिति ने निर्णय लिया था कि  
वे बिट्ठलभाई पटेल हाउस का दौरा करेंगे