

a communion from the Agriculture Ministry, stating that they are rejecting our proposal. Sir, they have rejected this proposal after crores of rupees have been spent on it. This shows there is total lack of coordination. I would request the Hon. Minister to see if some expeditious method can be found to dispose of such applications.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH) : Sir, I cannot agree with the suggestion of the hon. Member that the degraded forest land should be taken out from the area under forests. The very purpose of the conservation of forests, and the Act that this Parliament has passed, is not only to increase the area under forests, but at least to retain the area which is already under the Forest Department. We want to regenerate forests which have been degraded. Therefore, to agree to the suggestion of the Hon. Member would mean that the already small area, which is only about 22 per cent of our total land area that is under forest to thirty per cent. That is our plan.

The other part of the question of the hon. Member...

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Sir, I am talking of the forest land which has no forest.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH : But even that land we want to bring under forest cover. That is the purpose. We do not want any forest area to be diverted for any other purpose, even so cultivation.

Sir, he has mentioned a specific project. As my colleague has earlier stated that if there is a violation of the law, we have to impose some sort of discipline. If a State Government has taken action against the law of the Parliament, then...

SHRI CHITTA BASU : Why was it not pointed out earlier ?

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH : The Prime Minister herself has written to some of the Chief Ministers. I have also often been trying to persuade them not to violate the law, but when there is a very glaring example of violation by the State Government or its officers...

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Sir, even senior Officers of the Agriculture Ministry were present at the laying of the foundation Stone.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH : Well whatever it is, the presence of a Member of the Ministry cannot bypass the law. Therefore, Sir, wherever proposals come, if it is absolutely essential that the development project should come into being, we try to relax our rules also. At the cost of farmers' welfare, at the cost of very important irrigation projects, particularly for backward areas and tribal areas, we do not want to enforce the law very. Development projects also have to be approved. But where we that the State Governments are doing something which could have been avoided there we have to take a strong stand.

अध्यक्ष महोदय : इस का क्या बन्दोबस्त होगा ? क्या उसको तोड़ना पड़ेगा ?

SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY : Sir, in Andhra Pradesh over 90 lakh acres of land has been submerged under these projects and many trees are being cut. The Chief Minister of the State does not know the importance of the trees. He goes on condemning the Central Government saying, even for cutting of trees has he to take permission of the Central Government ? Sir, I would like to know whether this Ministry is going to educate such Chief Ministers, If so, whether the Hon. Minister is going to appoint any teachers ? If so, can he consider appointing me as a teacher for the purpose ?

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Next question.

STC to Buy Sugar from World Market

*213. SHRI NARAYAN CHAUBEY : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the State Trading Corporation have a proposal to buy three lakh tonnes of sugar from the world market ;

(b) if so, the reasons for the same ;

(c) the names of the countries which are supplying sugar to India indicating the price thereof ; and

(d) whether the said import will adversely affect the production of sugar inside the country ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (Dr. M.S. Sanjeevi Rao) ; (a) State Trading Corporation on behalf of the Government have finalised contracts for the import of about 3.54 lakh tonnes of sugar for shipment by the sellers upto October, 1984.

(b) Although there has been sufficient stock of sugar to meet the requirement during the current season 1983-84, the import of sugar has been made to augment the supplies during the initial period of the next sugar season 1984-85 when a number of important festivals also fall.

(c) The purchases have been made from International Traders. Therefore, the country-wise particulars are not know. The cost per tonne varies depending on the months of delivery. However, the average price comes to about US\$ 190 per tonne C & FFO.

(d) No, Sir. On the other hand, the import of sugar would increase the availability and help keep the prices in open market at reasonable levels.

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Chaubey, the same question has already been dealt with in this case only last week.

SHRI NARAYAN CHAUBEY : It has not come up.

SHRI SATYASADHAN CHAKRABORTY ; Since you have admitted it, he has a right to ask the Supplementary.

MR. SPEAKER : I am only telling him. If he wants to ask for the second time, it will be a repetition of the same thing. If Mr. Chaubey likes it, I won't stop him.

SHRI NARAYAN CHAUBEY ; All right. I am putting a very small question. Sir, we are importing sugar as well as exporting sugar. I would like to know what is the amount in rupees that we will have to spend in the matter of import and what was the amount of sugar we exported in 1982-83 and 1983-84, what was the profit and what was the loss in the matter of export.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI BHAGWAT JHA ARAN) : Sir, as we have said in the main part of the question, we are importing 3.54 lakh tonnes of sugar. We have given the average price which is US \$ 190 per tonne C & FFO. We cannot, at this moment, give the exact figure, but this is what we have given—the average per tonne, and we have contracted 3.54 lakh tonnes of sugar. This has been done as a measure of abundant precaution against some of the persons trying to hoard because our carry-over today in gros terms is 46.87 lakh tonnes, we have produced 59 lakh tonnes, our internal consumption is about 78 lakh tonnes. Our commitment for export up till now is 3.54 lakh