

(c) the period for which they had been in jails;

(d) how many of them are life-convicts;

(e) whether many of them are not getting any benefit either of the political prisoners or ordinary prisoners; and

(f) whether Government propose to issue directions to treat them as political prisoners ? .

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA) : (a) to (f) : Information is being collected and will be placed on the table of the House.

Special Programme for Ecological Balance

4222. SHRI A. NEELALOHITHA-DASAN NADAR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the steps Government propose to take to maintain Ecological balance ;

(b) whether during the Seventh Plan period Government are proposing a special programme for it; if so, details thereof ; and

(c) how Government propose to maintain the Ecological Balance in the silent valley area and the details thereof ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINH) : (a) Enforcement of legislation and incentives for pollution control and conservation of natural resources ; afforestation and soil conservation programmes; environmental impact assessment and monitoring of development projects;

integrated eco-development programmes for reclamation of degraded areas; campaigns for promoting environmental awareness at various levels and creation of Departments of Environment at the centre and in various States are among the steps taken for protection of ecological balance.

(b) Formulation of a National Conservation Strategy, establishment of a grid of protected areas as Biosphere Reserves, catalytic-support towards setting up State level structure for environmental management; demonstration projects for eco-development in selected areas, augmentation of research and manpower training, massive campaigns for environmental awareness and strengthening of infrastructural facilities for pollution monitoring and control including setting up of a National Environmental Monitoring Organisation and a statutory authority for control of hazardous substances are among the special programmes proposed for the Seventh Plan period.

(c) The Silent valley area has already been declared as a National Park. It is proposed to be protected as a core area of the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve to be set up in this region.

Neglect of Chakma Buddhist Ethnic Minority

4223. SHRI A. NEELALOHITHA-DASAN NADAR : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item in Amrita Bazar Patrika, dated 7th July, 1984 regarding total neglect of Chakma Buddhist ethnic minority located in the Union Territory of Mizoram ; and

(b) if so, the corrective steps taken/proposed to be taken in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA) : (a) Yes, Sir,