

(v) To set up police posts in the violence affected areas.

(vi) To form peace committee with leading members from different ethnic groups to maintain peace and tranquility amongst them by creating a congenial atmosphere

(c) and (d) According to the State Government 2,15,841 people were affected due to the ethnic violence in Kokrajhar and Bongaigaon districts. The exact number of houses damaged is yet to be ascertained. The affected persons took shelter in various relief camps.

(e) The State Government has sanctioned an amount of Rs 14.27 00.000/- as G.R. and R.G. to the affected people

Forests

1560. SHRI LALIT ORAON : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the total forest cover in the country at present, State-wise.

(b) whether the forest cover is decreasing gradually

(c) if so, the details thereof, and

(d) the number of schemes launched by the Government for the development of forests?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAT JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) According to the State of Forest Report, 1993, the total forest cover of the country as per 1993 assessment is 640 107 sq km. The State-wise details of the forest cover as per 1993 assessment is enclosed as Statement-I.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. According to the State of Forest Report, 1993, the total forest cover of the country as per 1993 assessment has increased by 925 sq km in comparison to 1991 assessment.

(d) The various major schemes launched by the Government for development of forest is enclosed as statement II.

STATEMENT-I

Statewise forest cover as per Assessment year 1993
(in sq kms.)

S No	State/UTs	1993 assessment
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	47,256
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	68,661
3.	Assam	24,508
4.	Bihar	26,587
5.	Goa	1,250
6.	Gujarat	12,044

1	2	3
7.	Haryana	513
8.	Himachal Pradesh	12,502
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	20,443
10.	Karnataka	32,343
11.	Kerala	10,336
12.	Madhya Pradesh	135,396
13.	Maharashtra	43,859
14.	Manipur	17,621
15.	Meghalaya	15,769
16.	Mizoram	18,697
17.	Nagaland	14,348
18.	Orissa	47,145
19.	Punjab	1,343
20.	Rajasthan	13,099
21.	Sikkim	3,119
22.	Tamil Nadu	17,726
23.	Tripura	5,538
24.	Uttar Pradesh	33,961
25.	West Bengal	8,186
26.	A & N Islands	7,624
27.	Chandigarh	5
28.	D & N Haveli	206
29.	Delhi	22
30.	Lakshadweep	-
31.	Pondicherry	-
Total		640,107

STATEMENT-II

List of major schemes launched by the Government for Development of Forests

(a) Ministry of Environment and Forests

1. Integrated Afforestation and Eco-Development Project Schemes.
2. Area Oriented Fuelwood and Fodder Project Schemes.
3. Non-Timber forest produce including Medical Plants Schemes.
4. Grants-in-aid to Voluntary Agencies.
5. EcoTask Force.
6. Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries.
7. Associations of Schedule Tribes and Rural Poor in the Regeneration of degraded forests.

(b) Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment

1. Integrated Wastelands Development Projects Scheme.

2. Technology Development, Training & Extension Scheme.
3. Grant-in-Aid Scheme.
4. Investment Promotion Scheme.
5. Wastelands Development Task Force.
6. Employment Assurance Scheme
7. Jawahar Razghar Yojana
8. Integrated Rural Development Programme
9. Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP)
10. Desert Development Programme (DDP)

(c) Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperation

1. Scheme of Soil Conservation in the catchments of River Valley Projects (RVP)
2. Integrated Watershed Management in the Catchments of Flood Prone Rivers (FPR)
3. Reclamation of Special Problems Areas and Improvement of Productivity
4. Reclamation and Development of Alkali Soils in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar with European Economic Community (EEC)
5. Scheme of Watershed management for Shifting Cultivation
6. Integrated Watershed Management in the Ravinous Areas (Phase-II)
7. Indo-Dutch North Bengal Terai Development Project (Phase-III)
8. National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPA)
9. Indo-German Bilateral Programme on Watershed Management.
10. Integrated Watershed Development Project (Hills)
11. Integrated Watershed Development Project (Plains)

Poultry Birds

1561. JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether in modern factory farming of poultry, birds are made to suffer unnecessary pain and wanton cruelties like disturbance in their day and night cycle, cutting of their beaks with hot iron, cutting of their claws, cramped for their life in cages and so on;

(b) whether birds have also been afflicted with various diseases on account of this, and

(c) if so, the preventive measures taken by the Government to provide natural environment to the poultry birds and avoid torture and cruelties against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Special Trains for Shravni Mela

1562. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether representations have been received for running of daily special trains from various parts of the country to Sultanganj for the passengers visiting Sharavni Mela;

(b) if so, the number of special trains introduced for the Mela.

(c) whether there is no guest house and other lodging and boarding facilities and acute shortage of light, ventilation, water and cleanliness facilities at Sultanganj Station; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A daily special train between Patna-Baidyanathdham and Chhapra and Jasidih are proposed to be run. In addition Kiul-Jamalpur passenger is being extended upto Sultanganj.

(c) and (d). Waiting Hall, ventilation, water and cleanliness facilities are already available.

[English]

Direct Train from Madurai to New Delhi

1563. SHRI A G S RAM BABU : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to introduce a direct train from Madurai to New Delhi and other cities.

(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) There is no such proposal at present.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Due to operational and resource constraints.

Coconut as Oilseeds

1564. SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the date on which coconut was declared as an oilseed;

(b) whether the benefits/privileges available for other oilseeds have been extended or the coconut cultivation;