

considerations, it should be restricted to 10 ha. in the hills and 25 ha. in the plains.

(d) to (f). According to the National Forest Policy 1988, the rights and concessions enjoyed by the Tribals and other poor living within and near the forests should be fully protected.

Environment and Forests Improvement Schemes in Rajasthan

2737. PROF. RASASINGH RAWAT:
SHRI KUNJEE LAL:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of environment and forests improvement schemes being implemented in Rajasthan;

(b) the amount spent on these schemes during the last three years and the outcome thereof; and

(c) the special scheme of the Union Government to check the expansion of desert and the details of the works completed thereunder?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Amendments to Wildlife Protection Act

2738. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT:
Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to amend the Wild Life Protection Act, 1972;

(b) the names of the animals whose hunting has been banned;

(c) whether the Government have received any representation in regard to the damages caused to the crops of farmers due to the ban imposed on the hunting of Neelgai, and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There is a ban on hunting of wild animals included in Schedule I and Part II of Schedule II of the Act.

(c) Complaints are received about damage of crops by Neelgai.

(d) There are following safeguards in the Act to prevent damage by wild animals to standing crops:

i) State Governments have powers to declare any such species, which does not form part of Schedule I and Part II of Schedule II as 'vermin' if it has become dangerous to life and property including crops. As Neelgai forms part of Schedule III, it can be declared as a 'vermin' in areas where it is doing serious damage.

Amount Spent Under Afforestation Programme in Bihar

2739. SHRI SURYANARAYAN YADAV:
Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the area under forests in Bihar is less in comparison to other States;

(b) the amount spent under afforestation