

expert committee according to which fast erosion of land in Himalayan region, especially in Western Himalayan area, will convert whole of North India desert in 70 years. Will the Government translate into action the recommendation of the Planning Commission regarding setting up Eco-Development Authority, headed by the hon. Prime Minister and assisted by the Chief Ministers of hill States as Members, for proper monitoring of ecology and to check soil erosion in the hills?

SHRI KAMAL NATH: Sir, I could not follow the question of the hon. Member which development authority he is referring to...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI KAMAL NATH: I did not understand the word 'eco'.*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: How can you expect an answer from him?*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KAMAL NATH: My earphone is not working. There have been many suggestions with regard to Himachal Pradesh. There is a problem of erosion. It is a very major problem.

SHRI SUKH RAM: I am talking about the entire Himalayas, particularly, the Western Himalayas.

SHRI KAMAL NATH: I have started with Himachal and he is not letting me go beyond that.

MR. SPEAKER: The former Planning Minister has made certain suggestions. You better talk to him and decide about it later on. It has come from his Ministry. Maybe, it has not been brought to your notice! There are so many suggestions.

(Interruptions)

SHRI MANABENDRA SHAH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to his statement-C.

1 and C.2. Is the hon. Minister aware that environmental phobia has stopped certain basic developments in the hill areas? Take the examples of road construction, High tension wire and so on.

The fact is that if there is one tree in a field, the road cannot proceed.

MR. SPEAKER: That is why, it is called sustainable development. Let us not go into that.

SHRI MANABENDRA SHAH: Has the hon. Minister made some norms so that the development part does not stop and the environment is also not affected?

MR. SPEAKER: That is the philosophy of sustainable development. This would be the last question.

SHRI KAMAL NATH: I hope so, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: You feel relieved?

SHRI KAMAL NATH: Sir, some cases of delay had been brought to our notice. We are endeavouring to ensure that there are no delays. If there are any specific delays, we will look into it. There was a cumulative delay because, a lot of information required from the State Government to be sent along with the proposal was not being sent and we are now devising a mechanism by which delays shall not be there.

[Translation]

Cases of Deforestation

*64. **SHRI RAM TAHAL CHOUDHARY:** Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases of deforestation, State-wise, reported during the last three years;

(b) whether the Government have stopped the auction of forests for cutting of trees;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

[English]

(d) whether some States have banned deforestation ; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FOR-
ESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) to (e). A
Statment is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(e) The State-wise details of number of cases accorded approval during the last 3 years by the Central Government under Forest (conservation) Act, 1980 for deforestation/diversion of forest land for non-forestry purposes is as under:-

Sl. No.	State	No. of Cases approved						Total
		1988	1989	1990	1988	1989	1990	
1	2	3	4	5	6			
1.	Andhra Pradesh	12	7	7	26			
2.	Assam	1	3	5	9			
3.	Bihar	3	4	4	11			
4.	Goa	—	1	1	2			
5.	Gujarat	15	18	16	49			
6.	Haryana	3	6	5	14			
7.	Himachal Pradesh	8	19	15	42			
8.	Jainmu & Kashmir	—	4	4	8			
9.	Karnataka	9	9	9	27			
10.	Kerala	3	7	17	27			
11.	Madhya Pradesh	17	36	102	155			

Sl. No.	State	No. of Cases approved						Total
		1988	1989	1990	5	6	6	
1	2	3	4	5	6	6		
12.	Maharashtra	4588	20	153				
13.	Manipur	1	—	—	1			
14.	Meghalaya	1	4	7		12		
15.	Orissa	10	12	25		47		
16.	Punjab	—	4	5		9		
17.	Rajasthan	10	8	10		28		
19.	Sikkim	3	2	2		7		
20.	Tamil Nadu	9	15	11		35		
21.	Tripura	—	—	1		1		
22.	Uttar Pradesh	45	20	99		346		
23.	West Bengal	1	1	9		11		
24.	A & N Islands	6	6	1		13		

Sl. No.	State	No. of Cases approved			Total
		1988	1989	1990	
1	2	3	4	5	6
25.	Dadra & Navelli	—	—	1	1
26.	Arunachal Pradesh	1	2	2	5
Total		203	458	278	1039

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM TAHAL CHOUDHARY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the reply is ambiguous. I desired to know the number of cases of deforestation came to light in Bihar? Government auctions forests for felling trees. Trees are being cut illegally. So, what action the Government proposes to take to check felling of trees? I hail from Chhota Nagpur...

MR. SPEAKER: You put the question. Many questions can be asked about it.

SHRI RAM TAHAL CHOUDHARY: Forests are being destroyed. Only those forests are safe which have been looked after by villagers and panchayats, while rest of the forests have been denuded. Laser machine is also causing damage to hills and forests. Does the Government propose to entrust responsibility to look after forests to villagers and panchayats with a view to save from being destroyed?

MR. SPEAKER: Question is regarding entrusting the responsibility to villagers and panchayats.

SHRI KAMAL NATH: The hon. Member has asked a question about Bihar, but the question is about whole of the country. As far as the issue of involving panchayats or any other community organisation is looking after forests is concerned, I would like to inform that a scheme has been formulated under which responsibility will not rest alone on the Forest Departments but the Panchayats or other community organisations will also be involved.

SHRI RAM TAHAL CHOUDHARY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, what steps proposed to be taken to stop auctioning of forests because in the name of felling of trees forests are being destroyed indiscriminately. How the Government propose to check all this?

[*English*]

SHRI KAMAL NATH: The auction of forests has been banned and continues to

be banned. There was no occasion in the sense the way auction used to carry on where a plot of land used to be auctioned of felling of trees. Such a system was banned some time ago and continues to be banned.

SHRI DIGVIJAYA SINGH: The hon. Minister has replied that the Government of India has directed the State Government to ban auction of forests, which consequently is a welcome step, but will result in a net loss to the State revenue. Has the Government of India received any proposal from the State Government for paying compensation to the State Government for the loss resultant because of the non-exploitation of the forest resources?

SHRI KAMAL NATH: We have only recommended to the State Government to ban the felling of trees. The State Government of Gujarat is the only State in the Country which has enforced complete moratorium on felling of trees for five years with effect from 1987. Where the question of the compensation of the revenue loss is concerned, this matter has been raised; it is under discussion with the State Government and the Planning Commission.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to put a straight forward question. Earlier by the road side fruit trees like those of mango, jack fruit and jambo used to be planted for the twin purposes of getting fruits and shade of trees but now a days, thorny plants like acacia are being planted in Haryana and Delhi by the roadsides. What is the reason therefore? Will the people allowed to plant a few trees on vacant pieces of land by the road sides, say along G.T. Road etc. by the Forest Department wherever trees have been felled?

MR. SPEAKER: Is there any proposal for granting individual permission?

SHRI KAMAL NATH: If the proposal is in accordance with the present social forestry policy of the Government then it can be

allowed. Regarding the question of the hon. Member about various types of trees, I will inform him separately.

SHRI DILEEP SINGH BHURIA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, many districts in Madhya Pradesh like Baster, Jhabua, Shahdol, Betul and Dhar come under reserve forests. Has the hon. Minister received any complaint from the people of the area to the effect that the State Minister of Forests is involved in illegal felling of trees. I would like to know from the hon. Minister if the State Government is involved, then what steps has the Centre taken to protect the forests?

SHRI KAMAL NATH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, some complaints have been received. Only after completion of the on going enquiry action will be taken.

[English]

SHRIMATI RITA VERMA: First the Minister says that the felling of the trees has been banned; then he says that the State Government has recommended to ban felling of the trees and only Gujarat has done it. I cannot understand what he actually means by saying so? Can he try to explain it further?

MR. SPEAKER: You are to ask a question. You just put a question. What is the question?

SHRIMATI RITA VERMA: First he says that the felling of trees has been banned; then again he says the State Government has recommended to ban felling of the trees. What is the actual position?

MR. SPEAKER: He did not say that; he said about the total banning and all that.

SHRI KAMAL NATH: I will clarify it for the hon. Member. (Interruptions) What I said was auction of plots is banned. It was done in a conventional manner was some plots of land were auctioned. That was banned some years ago. I have said that we have recommended and desired that it should be banned, specially around the plots of one thousand

square metres.

Expansion of Cochin Airport

*65. **SHRI P.C. THOMAS:**
SHRI PALA K.M. MATHEW:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the land for expansion of the Cochin Airport has been acquired;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have received any memorandum in this regard;

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(e) whether such a proposal had been received by the Government earlier also and if so, when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI M.O.H. FAROOK): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e). Based on earlier requests and a fresh memorandum received in this matter, feasibility of extending either primary or secondary runway, is being re-examined and revised cost estimates for these options are being worked out.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Sir, when you are re-examining the possibility of extending either primary or secondary runway, there is a place which is about 10 to 15 km. away from the present airport, which is called Edackattuvayal. This was once proposed to be a very good place for the extending the airport or putting up the airport there. Some memoranda have also been submitted in this connection. Will the Government kindly consider this place, about ten kilometres away, for extending the airport or for construction of a new airport at Cochin, consid-