

(a) whether the Government of Arunachal Pradesh has decided to make Sanskrit compulsory in its schools;

(b) if so, the rationale for the decision;

(c) whether this decision has given rise to any protest and agitation;

(d) whether the Union Government have received any representation to intervene in the matter in order to secure the proper implementation of the three language formula and for safeguard in the mother tongue; and

(e) if so, the details of the advice of the Union Government to the State Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) to (e). The requisite information is being obtained from the State Government and will be laid on the table of the Sabha.

Denudation of Forests

888. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU
SHRI RAMESH CHENNI-
THALA:

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

(a) the present area of forests land as compared to that of 1947;

(b) the yearly rate of denudation of forests and the reasons therefor;

(c) the names of States where denudation of forests has been maximum; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to check this denudation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) According to the State of the Forest Report 1989, the total extent of recorded forest area is 75.18 million ha. and as per the Handbook of Forest Statistics, the forest area in 1946-47 was 34.76 million hectares.

(b) and (c) According to State of Forest Report 1989, the annual loss of forest cover is 47,500 ha. The State where maximum denudation has been indicated is Orissa, and the main cause of this denudation has been attributed to shifting cultivation.

(d) The following steps have been taken by the Government to check this denudation :

1. The Forest (Conservation) Act 1980 was enacted to check diversion of forest land for non-forest purposes. The Act has been made more stringent by an amendment of 1988.

2. The National Forest Policy, 1988, lays more emphasis on conservation of forests. There are specific provisions for protection of forests from grazing, fires and encroachment.

3. A Centrally sponsored scheme has been started to help the States to develop infrastructure for protection of forests.

4. Alternative sources of energy are being developed to replace fuelwood in domestic and commercial sectors.

5. Import policy for timber has been liberalised.

6. Fiscal incentives are given to industries for wood substitution.

7. Wood is being substituted by alterna-

tive materials in packaging, railway sleepers, building construction, furniture etc.

8. Efforts are being made to control shifting cultivation.

9. Guidelines have been issued to State/UT Governments from time to time for protection of forests. Some of these guidelines are as follows:

i) To avoid felling of natural forests and where such felling is inevitable on silvicultural considerations, it should be restricted to areas not exceeding 10 hectares in the hills, and 25 hectares in the plains.

ii) To consider banning of green felling in the hills and mountains above 1000 metres.

iii) To set apart 4% of the geographical area as protection area under wild-life sanctuaries, national parks & biosphere reserve and others.

Manufacture of Coaches

889. SHRI ARVIND TRIVEDI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of Railway coaches are likely to be required in the coming years;

(b) if so, the details of planning to meet the demand of Railway coaches in future;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the number of coaches being manufactured by the Government per year at present?

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

(b) Works have been sanctioned to

increase the production capacity of coaches, from 1000 to 1150 coaches per year at Integral Coach Factory, Madras, and a new unit has been set up at Kapurthala to produce 1000 coaches per year.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) About 2200 coaches are being produced per annum by Railways including production in Public Sector Undertakings.

Implementation of Tikku Committee

890. SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE:
SHRI LAL K. ADVANI:
SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the recommendations of the Tikku Committee; and

(b) the reaction of the Government and the doctors thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SMT. D.K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) A statement showing the recommendations of the Tikku Committee is attached.

(b) The Government has announced its decisions on the recommendations of the Tikku Committee vide O.M.No. A. 45013/13/90-CHS-V dated 14.11.1991 (Annexure) There is mixed reaction of the doctors on the recommendations of Tikku Committee.

STATEMENT

1. Officers of the GDMO Sub-Cadre may be promoted to the grade of CMO after they have put in 10 years of service on seniority-cum-fitness basis without linkage such promotions to vacancies.