

**Statement****Salient features of the scheme of MOST regarding greening of National Highway land**

- (i) The Memorandum of Understanding will generally be valid for 5 years unless terminated earlier, renewal beyond 5 years will be considered taking into account the performance of the Agency, and the needs of National Highway development.
- (ii) The entire cost of developing and maintaining gardens/tree plantation/landscaping shall be borne by the concerned Agency.
- (iii) No construction of any kind will be permitted on the National Highway land.
- (iv) No commercial usage of any kind from the land by way of sale of plants, setting up of Nursery, etc. shall be permitted.
- (v) The Agency shall be allowed to publicise the free service on hoarding of approved size, which should not distract the attention of vehicle drivers. Such hoardings should be got approved from the State PWD/NHAI.
- (vi) The garden/tree plantation/land scaping will be developed and maintained to the satisfaction of the Engineer-in-Charge and the National Highway land will be vacated if so desired for the development of the road or any other public purpose in a clean condition within one month of the notice from the Engineer-in-Charge. The Engineer-in-Charge for the purpose shall be the Executive Engineer/ Divisional Engineer of the State PWD/NHAI under whose jurisdiction the said section of National Highway falls.
- (vii) The ownership of the said NH shall continue to vest with Ministry of Surface Transport at all times.
- (viii) On expiry of the Memorandum of Understanding, all fencing material/tree guards, trees, shrubs tubewell if any provided shall automatically become the property of the Ministry of Surface Transport.

*[English]***Vulture Population**

1736. DR. BIZAY SONKAR SHASTRI:

SHRI VAIKO:

SHRI A. GANESHAMURTHI:

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

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Pesticide poison hits vultures' number" and "alarming decline in vulture population" appearing in the *Hindustan Times* and *Times of India*, dated January 15, 1999;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein and the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) the vulture population in 1980 and 1998 in the country and the causes for its decline; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to save the vultures?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (A) Yes Sir.

(b) to (d) The Bombay Natural History Society has published a report stating that high levels of chemicals and pesticides are affecting the vulture populations throughout the country. Food shortage caused due to efficient utilisation of carcasses could be also one of the reasons. Presence of any avian disease is also not ruled out. A detail study in this direction is contemplated. No reliable data is available about the number of vultures in the country.

**IOC to Amend Pact with Reliance and Essar Refineries**

1737. SHRI M. RAJAIAH:

SHRI SURESH WARPUDKAR:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have asked the Indian Oil Corporation to negotiate a pact with Reliance and Essar refineries to market products;

(b) if so, the details of the changes proposed in this regard;