

[*Translation*]**Destruction of Forests**

1822. SHRI ARVIND KAMBLE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has sought clarification from the Government of Maharashtra, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh regarding the destruction of forests;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the conclusions thereof; and

(c) the total area of forests destroyed in these states so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) to (c) As per the State of Forest Report, 1997 published by Forest Survey of India, there has been an increase in forest cover in Maharashtra and Gujarat by 2,300 sq. km. and 258 sq. km. respectively and a decrease of 3,969 sq. km. of forest cover has been noted in Madhya Pradesh as compared to 1995 assessment. The states in which depletion of forest cover has been noted have been advised by Government of India to make an indepth analysis of the factors contributing to it and evolve an effective strategy and action programme for arresting the trend and increasing the forest cover in the coming years.

[*English*]**Telephone Advisory Committees in Gujarat**

1823. SHRI SHANTILAL PURSHOTTAMDAS PATEL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the telephone advisory committees constituted in Gujarat, district-wise;

(b) whether Members of Parliament are associated with these committees;

(c) if so, the criteria laid down for their nominations;

(d) whether any representation has been made by the Members of Parliament in this regard;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA):

(a) TACs for Gujarat Circle, Ahmedabad, Banaskantha (PLN Pur), Bharuch, Bhavnagar, Jamnagar, Sabarkantha, Kutch-Bhuj, Mehsana, Panchmahal (Godhra), Rajkot, Surat, Surender Nagar, Vadodra Valsad (Bulsad) and Junagarh have already been constituted.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) As per the existing rulings each Hon'ble MP shall be nominated in one or the other TAC as per his/her constituency/option as the case may be.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The details are given in the enclosed statement.

(f) As and when recommendations from Hon'ble MPs are received the same are considered.

**Statement**

S.No.	Name of the M.P. S/Shn	TAC for which recommended	No. of persons recommended
1	2	3	4
1.	Harin Pathak	Ahmedabad TAC Gujarat Circle TAC	21 1
2.	Devjibhai J. Tandel	Valsad TAC	13
3.	Mrs. Nisha A. Choudhry	Gujarat Circle TAC	3

1	2	3	4
4.	Shantilal P. Patel	Baroda TAC	1
5.	Buta Singh	Ahmedabad TAC	1
6.	Dr. Vallabhbai R. Kathiria	Rajkot TAC	24
7.	G.J. Javiya	Rajkot TAC	4
8.	Bhavnaben K. Dave	Rajkot TAC	2
9.	Dileep Sanghani	Amreli TAC Gujarat TAC	25 1
10.	Raju Parmar	Gujarat TAC Gujarat TAC	5 4
11.	Somjibhai Damor	Gujarat TAC Godhra TAC Baroda TAC Bhavnagar TAC Mehsana TAC Bharuch TAC Ahmedabad TAC * Dahod TAC	2 8 3 2 3 1 1 21
( * TAC cannot be constituted as the area is non-eligible)			
12.	G.J. Javiva	Jamnagar TAC	1
13.	Chandresh Patel	Jamnagar TAC	21

#### Telecom Facility in Leh and Kargil

1824. SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMED SAYEED: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to provide telephone facility in some villages of Leh and Kargil districts;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA):  
(a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Village Public Telephones for 10