

(vi) Need to amend the Forest Act  
for development of hill areas

SHRI HARISH RAWAT (Almora) : Sir, ever since the enforcement of the Forest Act, 1980, the people particularly from hill and tribal areas have been opposing it. Around development of the people living in these areas is based on forests. Most of the forests in these areas were planted, nursed and protected by the local people. But this Act has impeded all development work in these areas. For constructing roads, canals, school buildings etc. the approval of the Central Government is necessary under the said Act. This process is so lengthy and complicated that road under construction in Almora and Pithoragarh districts of Uttar Pradesh since 1980 are still lying incomplete. People are not able to enjoy their traditional rights in forests. Forest based industries are lying closed. I would like to urge that :—

1. The present Forest Act should be amended so that it is no longer necessary to obtain the approval of the Central Government for development work.

2. The trees, which meet the requirements of local people, should be planted.

3. The local people should be encouraged to cultivate forests.

4. Cooking gas on subsidised rates should be supplied to cater to the fuel needs of the local people.

5. The existing criteria and methods adopted for construction of roads etc., should be changed and determined in such a way that minimum number of trees are cut for development works.

[English]

(vii) Need to formulate a proper  
sports policy for encouraging all  
popular games

SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISRA (Tamluk) : Sir, I congratulate the Indian Cricket team on their thunderous victory in

the world championship for Benson and Hedges cup played in Melbourne. Three consecutive victories in world and Asian Cup championships have tremendously enhanced our country's prestige in the cricket world. As the cricket is confined to few states, this victory of ours will not attract the whole world. Cricket in our country is not as popular as football so far as playing is concerned. For the development of cricket as football, the contribution of the Central Government is practically nil. The only thing that the Government is doing for cricket is popularising it by giving coverage on T.V. but the mass media such as T. V. and radio are neglecting the most popular national game like football. I would urge that Santosh Trophy matches should be shown on T.V. Similarly, Nehru Gold Cup Football championship which attracts renowned international football playing nations should also be televised on the national hook-up.

Government of India should formulate a proper sports policy to encourage all the popular games of international repute like football, hockey, swimming etc.

(viii) Need for taking steps immediately to Create a free Trade Zone at  
Vishakhapatnam.

SHRI S. M. BHATTAM (Visakhapatnam) : The Andhra Pradesh Government has been requesting the Centre for a long time to create a free trade zone at Visakhapatnam Port which holds promise for setting up export-oriented industries.

Vizag Port Trust has offered 300 acres for setting up free trade zone.

The Tandon Committee had long time back, recommended the setting up of 5 or 6 more free trade zones in India to boost exports. There is at present a free trade zone at Kandla port where 28 units are functioning. There is another at Santa-cruz.

Visakhapatnam Port is centrally located and is the deepest port in the country. It is an all-weather port, free from the fury of cyclones. The existence of night navigation

facilities and proximity to the rail, road air port are projected as the plus points. The land offered is adjoining the port.

Under the existing conditions, the port can handle 14 million tonnes and by 1984-85, it is expected to handle 16 M.T. With the iron ore export to Japan showing decline, there is spare capacity which can be diverted for handling exports from the free trade zone.

During 1982-83, the Vizag Port handled only 11.2 million tonnes of cargo, which is only 11.67 per cent of the total cargo handled by all the 10 major ports.

Vizag port is best suited on the east coast for the location of a free trade zone and I request the Minister to take suitable action in this regard.

(ix) **Need to Issue a Commemorative stamp in memory of late sheikh Mohammad Abdullah**

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ (Bara-mulla) : Soon after the demise of Sher-e-Kashmir Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah, it was expected that the Ministry of Communications would issue a commemorative stamp for preserving the memory of Sheikh Sahib. It was expected that Government of India would take this measure as a mark of respect to the man who was one of the tallest and fiercest freedom fighters in the country. Sheikh Sahib rejected communal politics and all kinds of parochialism and strengthened the base of secularism in the country. It was a tribute to Sher-e-Kashmir's relentless efforts directed towards communal harmony during a period of unprecedented communal holocaust, that Mahatma Gandhi said in 1947, I quote :

"If there is any place in the country where from I can see a ray of light in this darkness, it is Kashmir and Kashmir alone."

The Ministry of Communications did not respond even after Sher-e-Kashmir memorial Committee requested it to issue a commemorative stamp as a mark of respect to the memory of Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah.

I would, therefore, urge the Ministry to accede to this request without delay.

(x) **Acute shortage of coins of small denomination and need for arranging supply of such coins in the rural areas also**

DR. A. KALANIDHI (Madras Central) : One, two, and three paise coins have almost become extinct. At present, we are able to see only five, ten and twenty paise coins besides 45 and 50 paise coins. Only soiled one rupee notes are available now. Even the one rupee coins are not available in plenty, these days. Due to this shortage of coins of different denominations all over the country, especially rural areas, people are finding it very difficult to lead a smooth life in their transactions while purchasing or travelling. With two rupee notes, it is very difficult to make purchases without loss of money in small denominations each day and on each transaction. Small denomination coins are being sold at a premium by certain vested interests and in certain places tokens are given in lieu of these small changes. This shortage of small denomination coins leads to fighting, struggle and trouble to the public. Due to shortage of the small coins, the traders exploit the situation to their advantage. Government of India should arrange to supply enough small denomination coins not only in the urban areas but also in the rural areas where the pinch of the shortage of small denomination coins is felt very much to the annoyance of general public.

[Translation]

(xi) **Sharp fall in the price of mustard seed and need for fixing the price of mustard seed at Rs. 600 per quintal.**

SHRI BIRBAL (Ganganagar) : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, I want to raise a matter of urgent public importance in the House.

The price of mustard seed last year was Rs. 600 per quintal which has slumped to Rs. 300 to 350 now.