

spent money also and done a very good job.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : They have not received. He is telling that.

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : Unless I receive the memorandum in the Ministry, we cannot send a central team, because on what basis will the Central team go? The Central Team goes and verifies the extent of damage and that depends upon the memorandum submitted to the Central Government. Unless it is received, it is not possible.

[Translation]

SHRI HARISH RAWAT : It seems as if your Ministry is affraid of hue and cry. A team has been sent to Andhra Pradesh but not elsewhere.

[English]

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : I sent a team to Andhra Pradesh only because the situation was grave. It was an unprecedented flood in Andhra Pradesh and we want to help the State Government because it is the people who are to be helped. Irrespective of the party in power it is the people who are our concern and, therefore, immediately we acted. But in the case of other States we have not received the memorandum except from Punjab and the Punjab team is leaving in a day or so.

Another suggestion by Mr. Kurup—that is a very good suggestion about afforestation. Afforestation is a must. The Government of India is very keen to see that our forest coverage should be 33% of the total land mass of the country. But it varies between 18 to 20 per cent. Therefore, the Government has enacted a law in 1982. In 1982 we enacted the Forest Conservation Act.

I am sorry to say that most of the State Governments violate the law and they cut the forests for their projects—for irrigation projects or other projects. They fell the trees and they construct dams and

the forest cover is reduced. But there are other programmes for afforestation like soil conservation and social forestry programme whereby the States can increase their forest coverage. Then he requested for sending a high-power team. It is not necessary to send a high-power team to any State to see whether they have cut the forests or not. I can say from my experience that most of the State Governments are cutting the forests for their projects. Mostly it is for irrigation projects. However, we have requested all the State Governments to see that minimum forest is cut for their projects and that they should take the permission of the Government of India as required under the law and then they can do it. ..(Interruptions) They are making efforts in raising social forestry and forestry.

13 07 hrs.

MESSAGE FROM RAJYA SABHA—
(Contd.)

[English]

SECRETARY-GENERAL : Sir, I have to report the following message received from the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha :—

“In accordance with the provisions of rule 111 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to enclose a copy of the Dowry Prohibition (Amendment) Bill, 1986, which has been passed by the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 22nd August, 1986.”

DOWRY PROHIBITION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1986

SECRETARY-GENERAL : Sir, I lay on the Table the Dowry Prohibition (Amendment) Bill, 1986, as passed by Rajya Sabha.