

[Sh. Harish Rawat]

matter.

MR DEPUTY SPEAKER: You give notice. We will do it afterwards.

SHRI AJAY MUSHRAN:(Jabalpur): When we meet on 12th of this month, we would like the hon. Minister to make a statement as to whether the contingency plan has been made by the State Government because the hon. Minister has given indication that there is no contingency plan to fight the cyclone.

MR DEPUTY SPEAKER: We cannot discuss it now. I already told the hon. Member that he can give a notice and we can do it. I cannot allow discussion on the statement.

SHRI AJAY MUSHRAN: On 12th, the hon. Minister should make a statement as to what has been done. Bengal has no contingency plan for cyclone hit areas.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): I can reply again, if you permit me.

18.01 hrs

FOREST CONSERVATION (AMENDMENT) BILL *CONTD.*

[English]

MR DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Ram Bhagat Paswan.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM BHAGAT PASWAN (Rosera): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, forests are our precious treasure. The Bill which has been presented here is very important

as regards the control of floods and droughts. But after the independence as the population went on increasing, in the name of development.....

(Interruptions)

It causes erosion in a unsystematic manner. The magnitude of erosion was so much that the physical nature itself has undergone a change. The temperature has increased. Floods and drought were also controlled with the help of forests but deforestation which is still going on, is causing great loss and in case it continues, it will adversely affect our agriculture and industry.

[English]

SHRI AJAY MUSHRAN: I am not a point of order.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: What is your point of order?

SHRI AJAY MUSHRAN: We are discussing today a Bill which is going to either solve or make the situation worse so far as the environment of our water resources and progress of development works of the country are concerned. I can understand if the hon. Minister go-se out for two or three minutes. But he has goes out for such a long time.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon. Minister has to make a statement in the Rajya Sabha. The hon. Minister has gone there. That is why, the hon. Minister Shri K.R. Narayanan is taking his place.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM BHAGAT PASWAN: So much damage has been caused to the forests in Bihar that this State has to face flood fury every year. There are many rivers in Bihar and there were many trees on the banks of these rivers. There was a forest between the 'Terai' region of Nepal and

North Bihar where soil is rocky. Now it has become barren and foodgrains can not be produced from that land. Because of deforestation, now there is no check on the floods and the result is that this area gets flooded frequently.... (*Interruptions*).

This Bill was brought in 1980 by the Hon. Prime Minister for the conservation of forests and preservation of environment. This is an appropriate Bill. I congratulate the hon. Minister for presenting such a commendable Amendment Bill. Its main objective is the conservation of forests and control of floods. Generally it is seen that there is multiplicity of laws but they are not strictly implemented. I hope that the hon. Minister will get these laws implemented very strictly. Due to the carelessness of Government officers, forests are not being protected. These officers are indulging in the felling of trees for selling them out. What I mean to say is that nobody is paying any attention to the conservation of forests. Therefore, the central Government should issue directions to the State Governments for the conservations of forests and grant maximum assistance for this purpose.

These should be planted at the distance of 3-4 meters. In old days passers-by used to get mangoes, gava and Jamun free of cost because the trees of these fruit were there on both sides of the road. But now, the people have to buy these fruits at a very high price.

There are many hilly areas in South Bihar which have a large number of useless trees. The Govt. should direct the officials of the concerned Department to plant useful trees in those hilly areas instead of useless trees.

I would like to request the Government again to work for the expansion and conservation of forests. The natural environment is changing because of the felling of forest trees. Therefore, the Government should consider it seriously. That is all I want to say.

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now state-

ment by the minister.

(*Interruptions*)

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H K L BHAGAT): He is not making the reply. This is another statement. I also propose that those hon. members whose names are there will be given opportunity to speak on 12th and then the Minister will reply. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO (Vijayawada): Sir, except for the announcement made in the House by the Speaker that the house will meet on 12th, there was no such proposal from the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Speaker announced in the morning.

SHRI V S SOBHANADREESWARA RAO: Has not the minister of Parliamentary Affairs got the responsibility to inform the House and propose?

SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT : What is he objecting, I do not understand?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: He says why Speaker announced and why Parliamentary Affairs Minister did not propose.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI H K L BHAGAT: It has already been decided. Speaker has announced it. Were you in the House in the morning or not?

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO: Speaker has announced but that is not the procedure. Is it not the Parliamentary Affairs Minister who should propose? (*Interruptions*)

SHRI N.V.N. SOMU (Madras North): Usually, Parliamentary Affairs Minister proposes and then the Speaker puts it be-

[Sh. N.V.N. Somu]

18.10 hrs

fore the House. Though the speaker has announced it, yet the proposal has not come from the minister of Parliamentary Affairs.

(Interruptions)

SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY (Kurnool): Members are treated in a very casual way. We do not know to what extent...

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMEN- TARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF IN- FORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI. H.K.L. BHAGAT): I say, Hon. Mem- bers are unnecessarily trying to take away the time. Speaker has the right and he has very rightly announced it.

(Interruptions)

SHRI V. SOBHANDREESWARA RAO: Speaker has announced it on the advice of the Government.

SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY: We cannot even know to what time we will remain here.

(interruptions)

SHRI V. SOBHANNADREESWARA RAO: At that time he promised to inform us. Are we to suffer like this? Why not we meet tomorrow or the day after? *(Interruptions)*

SHRI N.V.N. SOMU: I would like to know whether the Hon. Members are going to get extra air ticket. That is what he is asking for.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I do not know. That can be discussed with the Minister. You can discuss it.

Now the Minister of Environment and Forests to make a statement.

STATEMENT RE NATIONAL FOREST POLICY

[English]

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I seek your permission to lay* on the Table of the House the revised National Forest Policy.

The issue of revision of the Forest Policy formulated in 1952 has been under active consideration of the Government for some time. In view of the social, economic and ecological importance of forests, considerable thought has to be given to the multi-farious implications of the Forest Policy. Although the 1952 Forest Policy aimed at forest coverage of one-third of the total land area of the country, due to various constraints, this could not be attained. Rather, extensive diversion of forest land has taken place for non-forest use. The genetic diversity has also been considerably affected by the destruction of flora and fauna. The Government have increasingly realised the great importance of forests in contributing to the ecological stability of the country. This has necessitated a re-examination of the Forest Policy and giving emphasis to the conservation and ecological aspects.

The salient features of the new Forest Policy are:

1. Maintenance of environmental stability through preservation and restoration of ecological balance.
2. Conservation of the natural heritage of the country by preserving the remaining natural forests and protecting the vast genetic resources for the benefit of the posterity.