

(d) The Institute has its own Council of Management to deal with all matters relating to rules, regulations and service conditions.

Theft of a Gun from Kanpur Gun Factory

*565. SHRI RAM BAHADUR SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a 28 Km. range gun was carried by a private truck in Fatehpur (U.P.) on 17 February, 1990;

(b) whether this gun was stolen from Kanpur Gun Factory,

(c) whether the police at Banda had taken custody of the truck with the gun; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR RAJA RAMANNA): (a) to (b). The Gun Factory, Kanpur despatched on 16.2.90 certain gun components by road in a private truck to ordnance Factory, Jabalpur for carrying out finishing jobs. This vehicle was taken into custody by Banda Police on 17.2.90 and was challaned for violance of some provisions of the Motor Vehicles Act. The truck was released on the same day after security had been furnished by the truck-owner. The stores reached the destination on 18.2.90 intact. This was an authorised movement and not a theft.

Destruction of forests for Rayon production

*566. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHADRAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any study to determine the quantity of wood utilised and the extent of forest land affected by the supply of raw material to rayon factories in Kerala;

(b) if so, the findings thereof; and

(c) the remedial measures taken to prevent/curb the destruction of forests for rayon production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) to (c). According to the information given by the State Government, forest based raw material are being supplied to only one rayon factory viz. GRASIM industries for Rayon Grade Pulp production. As per the agreement executed with the firm on 27.10.88. 1.6 Lakh M.T. Eucalptus and 0.4 lakh M.T. bamboos are to be supplied annually for 5 years. The bamboo resources survey has revealed that the bamboo available in Northern Circle is sufficient to meet the requirement of the industry. The Eucalyptus survey conducted in 1987-88 has revealed that the Eucalptus plantations in Northern, Vested Circle, Central Circle, Ernakulam region of Kerala Forest Development Corporation and Kothamangalam and Munnar Division of High Range circle is sufficient to meet the requirement of the industry.

Bamboo is allowed to be harvested as per bamboo felling rules. Eucalyptus plantations are harvested on Coppice Rotation. No fresh natural forest area is cleared for raising Eucalyptus Plantation. The existing Eucalyptus plantations are being scientifically managed with the objective of enhancing their productivity. Destruction of forests for rayon production is not taking place as forests are being managed scientifically.