

**PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE :** He had appeared for civil examination !

**SHRI UTTAM RATHOD :** I know one or two instances where the boys of the rural area could not take the examination though they had topped the list in their university examinations. What can you say about such cases ? They were late in joining the schools and so, they could not complete their graduation before the age that is prescribed by the Government. So, they could not appear in the IAS and IPS.

What do you say about such classes, especially when they are people from backward classes who are neither SC nor ST ?

**SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM :** It is really the same question and I have said that it only takes 15 years of education to get a degree.

**MR. SPEAKER :** The question should have been put otherwise. The question should have been as to how the rural people who are getting education from the rural schools which have not the facilities that are available in the urban areas, stand up to the competition with those getting education in advanced schools.

**SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM :** I entirely agree. If the hon. House agrees with me, 15 years is the time that is required to acquire a graduate degree. The question is not really the upper age limit but to provide special coaching facilities in rural and backward areas.

**PROF. N. G. RANGA :** Who is doing it ?

**SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM :** We have to provide special coaching facilities in rural areas, to enable these boys and girls to compete in these examinations. When we took this decision, we have also simultaneously taken a decision to establish coaching centres in backward areas to enable graduates in the rural areas to compete in this examination. If you examine closely, you will find that it has nothing to do with the upper age limit. The upper age limit only provides for three chances which is provided for.

### Tree Plantation

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\*247. **SHRI DHARAM PAL SINGH MALIK :**

**SHRI SUBHASH YADAV :**

Will the **PRIME MINISTER** be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to chalk out a special plan for planting trees in each State ;

(b) if so, the broad outlines of the plan ; and

(c) the funds allocated for this purpose ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI) :** (a) Yes, Sir. An Action Plan has been chalked out.

(b) A statement is given below.

(c) **ALLOCATION OF FUNDS :**

(i) The funds available from major central sources for 1986-87 are :

Programme	Rs. (crores)
1. Social Forestry	36
2. National Rural Employment Programme and rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme-earmarking for Social Forestry.	219

(ii) Other allocations are partially available from Desert Development, Drought Prone Areas, Soil Conservation, Dryland Farming and other Programmes.

(iii) Besides, the States are expected to provide approximately Rs. 150 crores for the afforestation programme.

**Statement**

The Action Plan drawn up by the National Wastelands Development Board and accepted by the State/UT Governments for implementation has the following key elements :—

**1. IDENTIFICATION OF WASTE-LANDS :**

Each State/U.T. Government has been requested to identify wastelands in their territory whether they be in forest area, revenue/common lands or degraded farm lands.

**2. PEOPLE'S INVOLVEMENT :**

This will be ensured by the following measures :

(a) **Decentralised Nurseries :** People's nurseries i. e. kisans, schools, women, youth groups, voluntary agencies, etc., will be motivated to meet the increased demand of seedlings.

(b) **Farm Forestry :** Farmers will be motivated to take up tree farming on their marginal lands and planting on their field bunds. A rational policy in regard to distribution of seedlings should be evolved.

(c) **Tree Growers' Cooperatives :** Tree Growers' cooperatives should be organised with the involvement of farmers in raising and distribution of seedlings and in tree plantations.

(d) **Voluntary Agencies :** The grass-roots agencies, Mahila Mandals, Youth groups would also be motivated in nursery raising and tree plantations.

(e) **Tree Pattas :** Strips of land along roads, rails, canals, etc., and other degraded land should be given to the rural poor, with usufruct rights on the trees planted by them on such lands.

**3. NODAL AGENCY :**

The State/U.T. Governments have been requested to identify a single nodal agency for ensuring an integrated approach for the implementation of the programme which is being executed by different agencies, official and otherwise.

**4. SEED :**

The States/UTs. have been requested to extend the scope of operation of the existing State Seed Corporations to include the production and supply of fodder, grass and legume seeds to farmers on commercial basis.

**5. LEASING OF LANDS :**

The State/UT. Governments have been requested to prepare guidelines for leasing of forest and non-forest wastelands for afforestation to the rural poor.

**6. FOREST BASED INDUSTRIES :**

Must be encouraged to afforest wastelands to produce the raw material needed by them. Industries must also be enthused to raise tree cover on wastelands with a view to provide employment to the rural poor as well as to enable them to grow trees on a remunerative basis. The State Governments have been requested to draw up guidelines for the lease of wastelands to industries in this behalf.

**7. URBAN FUELWOOD AND GREEN BELTS :**

The States/UTs. have been requested to ensure that towns and cities have green belts of fuelwood and fodder plantations to cater to the urban fuelwood and fodder needs.

**8. DEGRADED FOREST AREAS :**

States have been requested to identify degraded forest lands and to reforest them with fuelwood and fodder species.

9. **FOREST DEVELOPMENT CORPORATIONS :**

The Forest Development Corporations should obtain wastelands on lease from the Governments for raising fuelwood and fodder plantations.

10. **GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS :**

Government Departments, public sector undertakings and other bodies/institutions having substantial areas of unutilised lands must bring such land under tree cover.

11. **MEDIA AND COMMUNICATION:**

A massive publicity campaign through the traditional media of folk art and culture, radio, television and other audio visual aids should be undertaken to create awareness among the masses.

12. **MONITORING AND EVALUATION:**

The State/U.T. Governments should evolve appropriate monitoring and evaluation mechanism to ensure qualitative implementation of the programme.

**SHRI DHARAM PAL SINGH MALIK:** May I know from the hon. Minister what action the Government propose to take on the suggestions made at a recent seminar on tree plantation, that India must fully exploit the high potential afforded by tree plantation for providing rural employment and also for raising the rural income and further whether the Government propose to revise the National Forest Policy in view of the said suggestions ?

**SHRI Z. R. ANSARI :** We have already taken decisions as far as the afforestation Policy is concerned. The stress is now that the social forestry should be made a people's programme instead of a programme to be taken up by the Government Department and in this regard a strategy has been evolved and the statement which is attached with the answer identifies the whole gamut of the question and the national wasteland development programme and the strategy.

**SHRI DHARAM PAL SINGH MALIK:** The statement shows that people will be involved in decentralised nurseries, farm forestry, tree growers, co-operatives, voluntary agencies and tree pattas. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether any financial assistance will be given to the people who involve themselves in these activities which you have mentioned in the statement.

**SHRI Z. R. ANSARI :** The answer itself is there in the main reply that for Social Forestry Rs. 36 crores have been earmarked. For National Rural Employment Programme and Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme a sum of Rs. 219 crores, have been earmarked and there are some funds from the Desert Development, Drought Prone Areas, Soil Conservation, Dryland Farming programmes. From all these sectors funds will be available to be deployed for tree plantation.

**SHRI DHARAM PAL SINGH MALIK:** I want to know whether any subsidy will be given or not.

[*Translation*]

**SHRI SUBHASH YADAV :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, my submission in this regard is that if we could conduct a survey in the entire country about the rate of mortality state-wise, I think, many facts would come to light. So far as my district is concerned, the rate of mortality there is more than 50 per cent. Under these circumstances, I would like to request the Government to constitute a high level committee at the district level which should go into the question and find out whether tree plantation was done there or not and if it had not been done, whether there was any administrative lapse in it or not. Under these circumstances, it is very necessary to find out this fact. Another suggestion which I want to give is that the farmers who..... ..(*Interruptions*)

**MR. SPEAKER :** Will you give suggestions and make submissions only or will you put the question too ?.....(*Interruptions*)

**SHRI SUBHASH YADAV :** I want that the hon. Minister should order a district-wise survey to find out the rate of mortality and view this problem seriously. I want to know whether he would order such a survey ?

[*English*]

**SHRI Z. R. ANSARI :** It is a continuous process. The State Governments have been requested to identify a single nodal agency which will monitor the whole programme. Here and there there may be some lacunae which have to be looked into. It is a good suggestion for action.

[*Translation*]

**SHRI DILEEP SINGH BHURIA :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, maximum loss from deforestation is caused to the Adivasis and it is disturbing their economy. The hon. Minister has mentioned about the scheme under which the wasteland can be allotted to those who want to cultivate it. I want to know whether there is any scheme under consideration of the Government under which such wastelands would be allotted to the farmers for social forestry ?

**SHRI Z. R. ANSARI :** Yes, Sir, such a scheme, as asked by the hon. Member, is already there and if there are some people, voluntary organisations which are traditionally attached to forests, they can be given land on lease. There is provision in this regard and they can be allotted the land.

**SHRI DILEEP SINGH BHURIA :** My question is about all tribals, who live in forests and are attached to the forests. I want to know whether Government propose to formulate a separate scheme for them ?

**SHRI Z. R. ANSARI :** Tribals are also included in them.

**SHRI SUBHASH YADAV :** I want to know whether Central Government would formulate a separate scheme for each state  
..... (*Interruptions*)

**MR. SPEAKER :** Shri D. N. Reddy.

[*English*]

(*Interruptions*)

**MR. SPEAKER :** He is not reading.

(*Interruptions*)

**PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE :** Let the Minister come nearer.

**SHRI D. N. REDDY :** Before the Government spells out a special plan for planting trees in each State, is it not a fact that there is senseless denudation of forests and destruction of greenery/vegetation is on the increase and if so will the Government take special steps to prevent such senseless destruction of forests and vegetation ?

**SHRI Z. R. ANSARI :** Sir, as far as we are concerned, we are taking every step and guidelines are being issued to the State Government and to the concerned agencies for taking care that the forests are not degraded. Sir, it is a fact that in certain areas there are reports and we just initiate action and take up the matter with the State Governments.

**SHRI CHANDRA PRATAP NARAIN SINGH :** I would like to know from the Hon. Minister (a) whether it is a fact that according to the satellite imagery which has been taken on certain areas of India, the forest cover is not even half of the revenue records of that area and (b) whether it is a fact that areas which are also under forest cover have been denuded to a degree where it is very very thin.

**SHRI Z. R. ANSARI :** This is a fact that the satellite imagery has shown that the actual thick forest is almost half, somewhat more than half, of the total area which is shown as forest land. It is about 13 percent when the declared forest area is 22.7 percent or something like that, subject to correction. This is also a fact that certain areas, certain forests are really denuded and they are in a degraded condition.

**SHRI CHANDRA PRATAP NARAIN SINGH :** In part (a) of the question, I had asked whether the forest cover has come

down to half of the total area. He says it is 22.7 million hectares. In U.P. it is not more than 4 to 5 per cent. Is that correct ?

SHRI Z. R. ANSARI : I am saying that 22.7 percent is the total forest area which has been shown. The forest cover shown by this satellite imagery is about 13 percent.

#### Denotified Communities and Nomadic Tribes

\*248. SHRI UTTAM RATHOD : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there are denotified communities and nomadic tribes in most of the States ;

(b) whether Government have taken any census of these tribes ; and

(c) if so, what is their population, State-wise ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The Question does not arise.

SHRI UTTAM RATHOD : Government have, on several occasions, made it clear on the floor of the House that the list of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes will be revised. Accordingly, twice a Bill was introduced and it was referred to a Joint Committee. But the Bills lapsed as the Lok Sabha was dissolved. May I know whether the Government is still thinking of revising the list of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and if so, for that purpose, whether they will try to enumerate the nomadic tribes and the ex-criminal tribes ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (DR. RAJENDRA KUMARI BAJPAI) : Sir, Government is considering revising the list of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

We are going to put a comprehensive Bill before Parliament. It is only the Parliament which is competent to revise it. At that time we will see all aspects of it, whether they are *vimukht jatis*, who falls in the category of Tribes.

SHRI UTTAM RATHOD : What is the hitch in having a census ?

DR. RAJENDRA KUMARI BAJPAI : The question is not taking of any census because according to the Constitution caste and community-wise enumeration can be done only for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. In respect of others, no such enumeration is possible.

SHRI UTTAM RATHOD : The Minister says that these people cannot be enumerated. But when the Government intends to include them under either the Scheduled Castes or the Scheduled Tribes, what is the harm in doing it ? In this country we have been having yearly census of the born-free and roaming-free tigers and other wild life. How is it that we cannot have a census of these people, these nomadic people. We have schemes to rehabilitate criminals, but we do not have any scheme to rehabilitate these ex-criminal tribes. What is the reason ?

DR. RAJENDRA KUMARI BAJPAI : Tribes are not criminals.

[*Translation*]

SHRI NARSINH MAKWANA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the people belonging to high castes get concessions meant for Harijans and Scheduled Castes in Gujarat. The State Government has also written to you in this regard, but there has not been any improvement. Educated and well off people who do not belong to backward classes are availing of all facilities meant for the Harijans and Scheduled Crstes. I want to know as to what action the hon. Minister is taking in this regard ?

SHRIMATI RAJENDRA KUMARI BAJPAI : Similar complaints have also been received from other States as also from the people belonging to Scheduled Castes who