

Afforestation Programme to meet the Demands of Wood for Fuel and Industry

*15. **PROF. RAMKRISNA MORE** : Will the **PRIME MINISTER** be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to start a massive afforestation programme to meet the demands of wood for fuel and industry; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BIR SEN) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The afforestation effort is being stepped up with the object of bringing five million hectares of land every year under fuelwood and fodder plantations. The details are being worked out.

India's Relations with Bhutan

*16. **DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI** : Will the **Minister of External Affairs** be pleased to state :

(a) the steps taken during the last one year to improve India's relations with Bhutan; and

(b) further steps proposed to be taken to improve these relations in future ?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI RAJIV GANDHI) : (a) Our relations with Bhutan have been further strengthened in this period by exchange of visits, Indian assistance to Bhutan's development plan and specific projects, and close consultations in all fields. HM the King of Bhutan paid three visits to India from January 1984 to February 1985, and HM the Queen Mother has been our guest in India last year. A new Trade Agreement came into effect, a Telecommunications Agreement was signed, and a microwave communications link between Bhutan and the outside world was commissioned.

(b) During the recent visit of HM the king of Bhutan, the Prime minister has expressed his willingness to visit Bhutan this year, and India has assured Bhutan of its continued support in that country's development. Close consultations are envisaged on the formulation of Bhutan's Sixth Development Plan commencing 1987. Meanwhile, some Indo-Bhutan projects are under consideration in cement, power generation, transmission and distribution, river, training, broadcasting etc.

Security Personnel Killed by Under-Ground Naga Insurgents

*17. **SHRI DHARAM PAL SINGH MALIK** : **SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHEPATIL** : Will the **Minister of HOME AFFAIRS** be pleased to state :

(a) whether 15 security personnel have been killed in Mingching in Manipur's Ukhrul district by Naga underground insurgents during the second week of February, 1985 ;

(b) if so, the details of the incident; and

(c) the action taken by Government in regard thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. B. CHAVAN) : (a) and (b). On February 18, 1985, a vehicle belonging to the Security Forces proceeding from Kangpat to Kamjong village in the Ukhrul district was ambushed by a group of Naga underground belonging to the National Socialist Council of Nagaland (NSCN) near Nampisha village about 10 Kms. South of Chasrad. 13 SF personnel (including a JCO) and a Circle officer of the Village Volunteers Force (VVF) were killed and one of the two VVF personnel travelling in the vehicle was injured while the other managed to escape. The NSCN undergrounds also carried