

[English]

Afforestation Programmes for Hill Areas of Himachal Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh in New Forest Policy

*383. SHRI JITENDRA PRASADA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether a new forest policy has been formulated by Government;

(b) whether the said policy aims at afforestation of the hill areas in Himachal Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh which were subject to illicit and indiscriminate tree felling resulting in devastating floods in the recent past and also putting a 20 years moratorium on the felling of trees;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time by which the scheme is likely to be implemented ?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI RAJIV GANDHI) : (a) to (d). Revision of the National Forest Policy enunciated in 1952 is under consideration of the Government.

Tourist Potential in Kerala

*384. PROF. P.J. KURIEN :

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether any comprehensive plan is being drawn up to exploit Kerala's tourist potential in full;

(b) the percentage of exploitation of tourist potential in Kerala at present;

(c) whether Government propose to develop places of tourists interest in the Idukki and Pattanathitta districts of Kerala; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT) : (a) to (d). The Department in consultation with the State Government has identified two travel circuits in Kerala comprising 22 centres for phased development of tourist infrastructure facilities with the combined resources of the Centre, the State and the private sector.

The Administrative Staff College, Hyderabad on behalf of the State Government has prepared a basic tourism development plan which will serve as a guide-

line for tourist development activities in the State.

The State Government has so far proposals for provision of boating facilities at Periyar Tiger Reserve in Idukki District and pilgrim shelters at Sabarimala. The annual snake boat event in Aranmula in Pattanathitta District is also given wide publicity as part of the Tourism Week Celebrations. Construction of Guest Houses in the State Sector at all these centres is also under various phases of implementation.

The State Government has been requested to submit concrete proposals for being taken up under the Seventh Five Year Plan.

ITDC has set up a hotel at Kovalam for beach holiday. Trivandrum airport has been opened to tourist charters from abroad.

Tibetans Demonstration Against Occupation of Tibet by China

2344. SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that some Tibetans settled in India have demonstrated outside the Chinese Embassy in New Delhi and other places against the occupation of Tibet by China; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI KHURSHEED ALAM KHAN) : (a) and (b). A small number of Tibetans who have settled in New Delhi demonstrated mainly outside the Chinese Embassy, against the presence of Chinese forces in Tibet and that Tibet should be granted independence. Government of India recognise Tibet to be a part of China.

Crimes Against SCs/STs

2345. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to lay a statement showing number of murders, riots, dacoities atrocities on SCs/STs and rape on women reported during the last one year separately for each State and Union Territory including Delhi ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA) : A statement is attached.