

India, the public sector banks have reported to it 1822 suspected bank fraud cases in India during 1986 as compared with 2157 cases in 1985. The amount involved was Rs. 44.42 crores in 1986 as compared with Rs. 53.49 crores in 1985.

**Emphasis on development of
land and water**

*115 SHRI BRAJAMOHAN MOHANTY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Science Congress at Bangalore has recommended shifting of emphasis on defence and nuclear power and concentrating on development of land and water ; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN) : (a) The final recommendations of the 74th Session of Indian Science Congress held at Bangalore in January 1987 have not yet been received by the Government. However, we have seen the draft recommendations presented at the 74th Session. These recommendations deal with the inputs of science and technology to resources and human well-being, and do not contain any mention of shifting emphasis from defence and nuclear power.

(b) Does not arise.

Shortage of Forest Officers

*116. SHRI K. PRADHANI : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a shortage of trained and experienced forest officers in the country; and

(b) if so, the steps taken or being taken to make up this shortage as well as to meet the growing requirements ?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BHAJAN LAL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The steps taken include :

stepping up of recruitment to the Indian Forest Service to 175 per year.

introduction of Forestry courses in Agricultural Universities to broaden the base for recruitment of Forest Officers.

revision of the syllabi for training of Forest Officers at all levels and

organising one-week refresher courses for the Indian Forest Service Officers every year to bring about the necessary attitudinal changes.

Wasteland Development

*117. SHRI V. SOBHANADRE-ESWARA RAO :
SHRI P.M. SAYEED :

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the land area identified as wasteland by each State/U.T. Government as on 1 January, 1987;

(b) the extend of land identified as degraded forests by each State/U.T. Governmet as on 1 January, 1987 and the area reforested during the year 1985-86; and

(c) the land given to rural poor with usufruct rights by each State/U.T. during 1985-86 ?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BHAJAN LAL) : (a) and (b) The State/U.T. Govts.