

LOK SABHA DEBATES

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LOK SABHA

— — —
*Wednesday March 27, 1985/Chaitra
6, 1907 (Saka)*

*The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the
Clock*

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

OBITUARY REFERENCE

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I have to inform the House of the sad demise of Shri Dajiba Balwantrao Desai who was a member of the Sixth Lok Sabha during 1977-79. He had also been a member of the Rajya Sabha during 1960-66.

A well-known political and social worker, he worked for adult education amongst Scheduled Castes and weaker sections of the Society and was President of Dakshin Maharashtra Shikshan Mandal, Belgaum. He was the editor of a monthly and a weekly.

Shri Desai passed away at Alibag, Raigad district of Maharashtra on 19 March, 1985, at the age of 59 years.

We deeply mourn the loss of Shri Desai and I am sure the House will join me in conveying the condolences to the bereaved family. The House may stand in silence for a short while to express its sorrow.

*The Members then stood in silence
for a short while*

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ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[*English*]

Development of GIR Forest

*201. SHRI RANJIT SINGH GAEKWAD : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to develop Gir Forest as a 'Safari' Park for promotion of tourism;

(b) whether any funds have been earmarked for the the purpose; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BIR SEN) : (a) to (c). The Gujarat State Government has a proposal to develop a safari park at Gir and has made a provision of Rs. 12.52 lakhs for this purpose during 1984-85.

SHRI RANJIT SINGH GAEKWAD : The Gir forest is already a sanctuary, part of it at least; and the other part is a national park where tourists are already visiting. By making this a Safari park, I would like to know from the hon. Prime Minister what additional advantage would this particular forest get, and whether the organizations which are experts in this particular subject would get any further advantage say, in the running of this Safari park.

SHRI BIR SEN : It is primarily an educational project. People are educated about the natural history of the land; and tourists who visit it also know about the ways of animals—how they live and how they behave. This is a general education for people—for children, students etc.

SHRI RANJIT SINGH GAEKWAD : I asked about the organizations which are supposed to be knowledgeable in the particular subject. Would they also be given any extra powers in the running of these Safari parks ?

SHRI BIR SEN : This will require notice.

SHRI RANJIT SINGH GAEKWAD : The late Prime Minister and the present Prime Minister both have been taking a lot of interest in our cultural heritage. I think these Safari Parks and natural sanctuaries are also part of our heritage. Our Prime Minister is present here. I would request him through you to let me know whether there are any further programmes to strengthen these forests so that the felling of trees and all that in the forests does not take place and the natural habitat for the wild animals which are there in these forests is not diminished. I would like to know from the Prime Minister what he has to say about it. Are there any other programmes also ?

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : You add one more Prime Minister also— Pandit Nehru.

SHRI BIR SEN : For conservation of the wild life, we are deciding about a number of projects, particularly sanctuaries and national parks.

SHRI RANJIT SINGH GAEKWAD : Is there any national organisation to look after the interest of these forests ?

SHRI BIR SEN : We have no proposal to form such organisations so far.

SHRI B.K. GADHVI : The entire House is aware that just like our prized animal one-horned Rhino, the Asian lion exists only in Gir Forest. In Africa, there are Safari arrangements and the parks are open to Safari and that is a lot of attraction for the tourists. Therefore, for preservation of these animals as well as for attracting tourists, that can very well be done in Gujarat which is a unique place in the

entire Asia. Therefore, I would like to know whether the government proposes to pay special attention with more allocation of funds for development of these forests, because there is poaching and there is no resettlement for the people, who stay there, anywhere else. Therefore, the natural habitat of the lions is gradually diluted making the atmosphere more incongenial for their growth. I want to know whether government is aware of this fact and is paying proper attention and allocating more fund.

SHRI BIR SEN : These national parks are meant for preserving the wild life, particularly parks and the Safari Park are meant for that.

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI RAJIV GANDHI) : Forests and wild life are an integral part of our richness of wealth and they have to be preserved. The Government will be taking all possible steps to preserve our wild life and our forests. There is a tremendous danger to the parks coming under the pressure from the population surrounding these parks. We looking into how we can protect these parks. One idea which is already there to some extent is to have a buffer zone around parks with reducing control as you go further away from the core area. We are looking into every aspect and will see how we can develop this protection, how we can educate people about the importance of protecting our environment; and ultimately all this will decide the question of the survival of people in India because if we wipe out all our ecology and environment it will be very difficult for us to survive. The answer lies only in educating people and bringing the subject at the school level so that there is an understanding and perception of the dangers which are involved and we will try to do that as well.

SHRI D.B. PATIL : The main thrust of the question was whether the Central Government proposes to develop Gir Forest as a Safari Park for promotion of tourists. It has been stated in the reply that the Gujarat Government has taken up the project and provision has been made for the year 1984-85.

I would like to know from the Government whether the Central Government is going to help the Gujarat Government in this project.

SHRI BIR SEN : The Central Government gives grants for non-recurring expenditure for building of roads, fencing, etc. The Central Government has given so far Rs. 9.24 lakhs for this purpose.

[Translation]

SHRI BANWARI LAL BAIRWA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there are two very important game sanctuaries in Rajasthan—one is the Ranthambore Sanctuary in Sawai Madhopur District and the other is at Siraska in Alwar District. They are serving as a habitat for various kinds of animals like lion etc. on a large scale and the animals are being looked after very well there. Do Government have any scheme to develop both these game sanctuaries? As these are places of tourist attraction and residential accommodation is inadequate there, will Government look into it?

SHRI BIR SEN : A separate notice is required for this.

[English]

Methods to Locate Wasteland for Afforestation

*202. **SHRIMATI KISHORI SINHA :** Will the the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether any survey being conducted for demarcating the areas for development under Wasteland Development Scheme of Government;

(b) if so, the State in which it is being conducted;

(c) if not, the other methods being followed to locate the wasteland for its afforestation; and

(d) the institutional arrangement and species of trees to be used under this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BIR SEN) : (a) to (c). Survey using remote sensing techniques have been conducted in the country. The data collected is being interpreted and the results are likely to be received soon. On receipt of the aforesaid report, areas for development under Wasteland Development Scheme will be demarcated. State Governments have also been advised to identify such wastelands which could be covered under the afforestation programme.

(d) The following institutional arrangements are already available for implementing the scheme by the State Governments :—

- (i) Forest Department;
- (ii) District Rural Development Agency;
- (iii) Soil Conservation Department;
- (iv) Special Area Development Authorities.

In addition, it is proposed to utilise non-government organisations and others to complement the efforts of the State Governments.

The scheme will be funded through institutional finances and aid received from bilateral/multilateral aid agencies. Different tree species would be selected on the consideration of soil and climatic conditions.

SHRIMATI KISHORI SINHA : I would like to know whether it is possible for our hon. Prime Minister to inform the House about the time that is likely to be taken for the submission of the report about the demarcation of the area. Have the Government received any information from the State Governments about the time likely to be taken for that?

SHRI BIR SEN : This information is not yet available.