

forest produce. Cooperativisation of forest labour has been speeded up and long-term lease of minor forest produce has been given to the cooperatives and LAMPS at concessional rates. Laws have been passed in MP nationalising some items of Minor Forest Produce. Collection of minor forest produce is being done by the MFP Federation,

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. Amongst others, Ratanjot, Bamboo, Arjun & Mulberry Plantations will be taken up during the Seventh Plan. Exact areas in the State will be identified.

Amendment to Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980

3308. SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether many areas where minerals are found in abundance are covered by forests;

(b) whether the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 prohibits State Government from using any forest land for non-forest use without prior approval of Union Government;

(c) whether the State Government can grant mining leases on forest land only after they have sought prior permission of the Union Government which leads to inordinate delays in granting mineral leases; and

(d) if so, whether Union Government propose to amend the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BIR SEN) :

(a) Some minerals are found in forest areas.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Union Government has laid down detailed guidelines for the expeditious handling of cases arising under the Forest (Conservation) Act,

1980. Inordinate delay does not take place at the Central Government level.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Persons killed during Lok Sabha and Assembly Elections

3309. SHRI C. JANGA REDDY :
DR A K. PATEL :
SHRI PIYUS TIRAKY :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the State-wise number of persons killed and injured during the last Lok Sabha elections and at the time of Legislative Assembly elections;

(b) the State-wise comparative figures in regard to the number of persons killed and injured during the elections held prior to these elections;

(c) whether the incidence of violence in elections has gone up, if so, the reasons thereof; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government to keep elections free from incidents of violence ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI RAM DULARI (SINHA)) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Negotiation with Thailand for New Flights by Air India

3310. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether recently a delegation was sent to Thailand to negotiate new air flights by Air India;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof: