

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : How is it different from the southern part of Andaman and Nicobar islands....

MR. SPEAKER : That amended question can stand.

SHRI N.V.N. SOMU : The Government instead of preventing the entry of foreigners, actually, what they are doing is this. They are demolishing the huts and houses of the Tamil PWD workers there. Will the Government stop doing it? I want to know it.

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA : There is no question of demolishing any house, least of all, that of Tamil speaking people.

MR. SPEAKER : There is no question at all.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI VIDYAWATI CHATURVEDI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, as has been said by the hon. Member who spoke prior to me, Andaman and Nicobar Islands is a sensitive place. It is an Island which is not inhabited by people at many places. Our Navy and Army are stationed at such strategic places. According to the information received, the foreign and anarchic elements are infiltrating into our Bay of Bengal. Such places which are not inhabited by people are very important from security point of view. I want to know from the hon. Minister whether he has received information to the effect that such elements are infiltrating there?

MR. SPEAKER : The hon. Minister has just now replied to it?

SHRIMATI VIDYAWATI CHATURVEDI : When was it replied to?

MR. SPEAKER : You have not listened to that.

[English]

Alienation of Reserved Forest Area for Yeleru Reservoir Project (A.P.)

* * * * * **SHRI N. VENKATA RATNAM** .

Will the **PRIME MINISTER** be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested the Union Government for alienation of Reserve Forest area for its Yeleru Reservoir Project;

(b) whether Union Government have granted alienation; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Final decision on the proposal could not so far be taken on account of non-submission of essential information by the State Government.

SHRI N. VENKATA RATNAM : The information furnished to us by the State Government is that the entire information has been furnished to the Central Government. In spite of this, what he says is not clear to us. I would like to know what sort of information was required from the State Government and when?

SHRI Z.R. ANSARI : This is a case which was presented to the Central Government in 1984 and incomplete information was provided by the State Government. Many reminders were sent to the State Government but they did not respond to the correspondence sent by this Department and they did not send the information. So ultimately the case had to be closed down. Again it was reopened. And it was reopened with similar incomplete information. There are certain basic requirements for the clearance. In certain projects, vast area of forest is submerged; then the project should give the scheme about the compensatory, afforestation, cost benefit analysis, rehabilitation plan for oustees especially when large number of oustees are scheduled castes and scheduled tribes people and the feasibility of realigning the left bank canal so as to reduce the use of forest area.

These are the details which we are lacking and till today we are not in receipt of

these details. No scheme for compensatory afforestation has been received. No scheme for rehabilitation plan is received. These are the basic requirements which we have not received and till we receive this information, it is not possible for us to clear the project.

SHRI N. VENKATA RATNAM : Sir, the main purpose of this project is to supply 1275 cusecs of water to Visakhapatnam steel plant which you also considered is a very important steel plant; I am surprised to hear that it is now closed. So, unless it is cleared there is no possibility of going further, and out of Rs. 147 crores of total expenditure of the project, the State Government has already spent Rs. 62 crores and the other work could not be proceeded because the Government did not give clearance. Now, you say that the entire file is closed. Then how to get on with this Visakhapatnam steel plant? Unless the water is supplied to the Visakhapatnam steel plant, it could not go further.

PROF. N.G. RANGA : But you must give the information.

(Interruptions)

AN HON. MEMBER : It is supplied already.

SHRI N. VENKATA RATNAM : The information furnished to us by the State Government is that the entire information was furnished to the Centre long back. And now you say that the entire matter is closed. It is surprising.

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI RAJIV GANDHI) : Sir, if I may just clarify. Although the hon. Minister has given all the information, I don't think anything new has been asked.

The fact is that there were five points which the Minister mentioned, where adequate information has not been given and I would just like to highlight two of these points to give an example of the type of action that sometimes the State Government take. There are basically two questions. One, and perhaps the most important, is that of rehabilitation of the people who live in that area. In that area which is going to be submerged, there are 1599 families or 10,121 people and these 10,121 people in-

clude 1134 persons belonging to the Scheduled Tribes and 1957 Scheduled Castes. That means, there are around 3000 Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes people and 10,100 people altogether. Now, the State Government has gone ahead with the plan to submerge these poor people without even arranging their rehabilitation. How can we clear something like this?

Sir, there is a submergence of 1525 hectares of forest land, but no alternative forest has been proposed; I do not have the exact number here, but approximately 30 per cent of the forest has been lost in Andhra Pradesh over the past 7 or 8 years. So, deforestation has been going on very rapidly. We are seeing right across the country the effects of deforestation with the drought and the change of climate. Last year we spent vast amounts on drought relief, amounts which we never spent before. Now, if we are not going to be careful about our forests, how can we survive this? And I would request the hon. Members to pressurise their own State Government to see that the projects are not taken up and money is not spent before all the requirements are fulfilled because otherwise that puts us in a very awkward position. A State spends Rs. 60 to Rs. 70 crores and says, 'Now we cannot rehabilitate these people, we do not know where to give you the forests', and the result is that the project gets delayed. If the States are really serious about a particular project, then we expect that such ideas and such questions will be answered before they actually start working. Of course, if certain States are not worried about where 10,000 people will go, then there is very little we can do, Sir.

SHRI N. VENKATA RATNAM : Sir, the answer is beyond the point.

MR. SPEAKER : You have put your second question. I gave you the chance for the second Supplementary. You have put two questions.

(Interruptions)

SHRI N. VENKATA RATNAM : For the second Supplementary, the answer is beyond the point, Sir. The total alienation is 1225 hectares. Unless it is cleared, no water can go to the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant.

Sir, unless it is cleared, no water can go to Visakhapatnam Steel Plant. Unless the water is supplied, the Steel Plant...

MR. SPEAKER : Everything is connected with each other. Everything has to be put in the whole. That becomes so.

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : I may be permitted to ask a question because I would like to clarify certain things which I am not very sure about the question of the hon. Member. Is this the suggestion made by the hon. Member that we should allow 10,121 people to drown because we have to give water to the...

SHRI C. JANGA REDDY : No, Sir.. We will rehabilitate.

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO : The project started much before the Forest Act came into being. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Uttam Rathod.
(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : All right. Sit down. Mr Rathod.

SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY : It is most unfortunate that the Prime Minister says like this...

MR. SPEAKER : I will give you a supplementary. You cannot do like this. Mr. Raghuma Reddy, you cannot say like this. I will give you supplementary. Why are you agitated about it? Sit down. Let the things proceed according to the rule.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : When the Prime Minister has asked a question, the hon. Member must be allowed to reply.

SHRI UTTAM RATHOD : Sir, when an irrigation project is prepared, there is a provision for rehabilitation of the people who are likely to be submerged. Compensation is given to them. In some of the States, alternative land is also given to them. So, I think, the contention of the Government is not so much correct.

So far as afforestation is concerned, the Government should not be so touchy, as far

as the forest area is concerned. Even for the construction of road, even for construction of electricity lines, even for construction of telephone lines, the Forest Department is coming in the way of construction of these things. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Order please. Don't interrupt.

SHRI UTTAM RATHOD : I would like to know, how far are we going to stage this point of afforestation.

PROF K.K. TEWARY : Sir, afforestation is very important.

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : Sir, perhaps the hon. Member is ignorant of the dangers of deprivation of our environment. I would like just to bring some numbers to his notice, just to bring to his notice, the gravity of the problem. These are the levels of deforestation that have taken place in the States. From Andhra, it is 36.5% reduction in the forest area; Assam 35% reduction in the forest area. *(Interruptions)* I am also naming other States. Bihar 31%. I am rounding off the decimals. Gujarat 74%. Haryana 76%. Himachal 67%. Jammu and Kashmir 31%.

Some of the States had very little forest. So, as a percentage, the deforestation will be much higher. But in some States which have more forests, even if the deforestation has been much more, the percentage might appear to be less. But these numbers are 30%, 40%, 50%. In one State, it is 80%, 90%. Punjab—81%, Rajasthan—80.7%. So, these are the levels of deforestation that are going on.

Now, we have to decide what we really want. We from the Environment Department are not putting a stop to any project. We have laid down a number of rules that if you are going to cut so much forest, please give us equivalent amount of forest somewhere else which we can plant or you can plant. We are not saying that you cannot do the project. But we want to see at the beginning, because, now when we look back, this has been asked some years ago. The fact is that not one single State has taken one step towards afforestation on any project that has been cleared from here, with the proviso that afforestation in some

other area will take place—not one State, not one case. Now, we have to decide whether we are really serious about our environment or not. If the country is not serious about it, if we do not want to live for tomorrow and we only want to live today, if that is the decision of our people, then, yes, we can do that. But we must know the dangers that we are letting our country in full, the dangers that we are setting up for the coming generations. I would request hon. Members who have asked this question to ask their own States to see that afforestation of the equivalent area is taken up and I would once again request that “Please do not ask us to clear project when alternative arrangements for people who are being displaced are not being made.” If you do not have the interests of those poor people in mind, we have them at heart. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY : It is the habit of the Central Government to say that the State Government is not submitting the information. Whenever irrelevant things are asked, the State Government may not be in a position to submit the information. I request the hon. Prime Minister that he send a senior officer to go to the State, to collect whatever information is needed for not only this project but for all projects. All the information can be collected then and there itself so that things can be solved.

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : The hon. Member finds it irrelevant that 10,000 people are going to be rendered homeless. *(Interruptions)*. We think it is very relevant.

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO : This project was started in 70s.

MR. SPEAKER : It does not matter whenever it is started. It has to be..... *(Interruptions)*.

SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY : There is no question of irrelevancy about it. *(Interruptions)*.

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : I have been asked a question. I may be permitted to answer the question. The hon. Member said —If I am correct—we can just read out the transcript, if you like—that irrelevant questions are being asked by the Centre. The question that we are asking about is the

displacement of 10,000 people. Does the hon. Member think that the displacement of the 10,000 people is irrelevant? We do not think it is irrelevant and we will not allow you... *(Interruptions)*.

SHRI C. JANGA REDDY : When we are asking about the clearance of the project *(Interruptions)*.

MR. SPEAKER : You get the answer to the question.

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : The fact of the matter is... *(Interruptions)*.

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down. Please take your seat.

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : The fact of the matter is that certain Members of the House and certain State Governments find the displacement of 10,000 people irrelevant. We do not.

SHRI C. JANGA REDDY : We do not. *(Interruptions)*.

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : If the State Government does not find it irrelevant, I do not see why we should have to send someone to the State and why the State Government cannot answer the question and give us the scheme for the rehabilitation of these people. It is patently obvious that the State Government does not find this relevant.

MR. SPEAKER : Next question, Mr. Indrajit Gupta. *(Interruptions)*.

Privatisation of Security and Cleaning Arrangements in Government Offices

*767. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA† :
SHRI HAFIZ MOHD. SIDDIQ :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have decided to entrust the security arrangements and cleaning work at the Government offices including the prestigious Indira Gandhi International Airport in Delhi to the private sector; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor ?