

watch the trend from the approvals given by the Controller of capital Issues. During the year from 1st April, 1986 to 28th February, 1987, the Controller of Capital Issues has sanctioned raising of capital through debentures for an amount of Rs. 2,464 crores as against Rs. 1,281 crores during the corresponding period of the previous year. This clearly indicates that this decision has no adverse effect on the capital market.

SHRI ANANDA GAJAPATHI RAJU : This conversion of non-convertible debentures is an instrument which is used by capital stock-markets when the stock exchanges are having problems and the prices are fluctuating up and down. Therefore, there is a need to go in for more instruments, convertible instruments. When this is a case, when there is a question of raising more money to finance the Seventh Plan etc., why is it that the Government has foreclosed its option of not allowing non-convertible debentures to be convertible ?

SHRI BRAHMA DUTT : I have answered this, namely, to put at rest the speculative part of it and certain misgivings. But we have opened the other avenues. The means of raising funds by the corporate sector are the issue of equity shares, convertible debentures and cumulative convertible preference shares for which guidelines have already been issued. We have taken sufficient care to see that the capital market is not short of funds.

Afforestation in Degraded Forest Land

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*575. **SHRI C. JANGA REDDY :**

DR. A.K. PATEL :

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

(a) whether under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, State Governments have to get prior permission from the Union Government for using the degraded forest land for afforestation schemes ;

(b) if so, the rationale thereof ; and

(c) the guidelines issued to the States in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI) : (a) to (c). Afforestation of degraded forests does not require prior approval of Government of India. The approval of Government of India is required if degraded forest lands are to be placed at the disposal of individuals or private institutions. The guidelines issued to the State Governments provide that :

(i) lease of forest areas to private parties for raising plantations of bamboo or other tree species required as industrial raw material would also have larger implications and may create environmental problems. Such cases, therefore will also require prior approval of the Central Government under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 ; and

(ii) The use of forest lands for afforestation purposes even by individuals, institutions etc. under different schemes will attract the provisions of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and hence would require prior approval of the Central Government in each case.

[*Translation*]

SHRI C. JANGA REDDY : Why is the prior approval of the Government required if private persons want to utilise forest lands for the purpose of afforestation ?

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH : In regard to forest land, it has been stated as to what are the objections.

SHRI C. JANGA REDDY : If a person wants to grow trees in his own land, then what are the objections in that ?

[English]

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU : This is with regard to the forest land.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : The question is not concerned with private land.

[English]

SHRI C. JANGA REDDY : The use of forest land for afforestation purposes.

[Translation]

If forest land is given on lease to private persons then why should it be necessary to get the approval of the Government? If they want to grow trees, let them do so.

MR. SPEAKER : Who has stopped them? You can play 'Kabaddi' in your own land. No one can stop you.

SHRI C. JANGA REDDY : Since 1980 till today how many private institutions have been given permission and how much land has been given to each of them?

SHRI Z.R. ANSARI : Sir, I think that our hon. Member.....

MR. SPEAKER : You may discuss the matter with him in your room.

SHRI Z.R. ANSARI : The hon. Member has forgotten his own question. It concerns forest land. In regard to forest land being given to individuals and private parties, our policy after the enactment of the Forest (Conservation) Act of 1980 is that forest land will be granted to them only after proposals from the states come and without the States sending their proposals, clearance will not be given.

SHRI C. JANGA REDDY : If the State Government fells trees for selling without taking prior permission of the Central Government, is any action taken against them?

SHRI Z.R. ANSARI : Sir, so far as the felling of trees is concerned, where the trees have grown fully and there are no possibilities of their further growth, it is a practice everywhere to cut forests in a phased manner and then undertake replantation. It has been the practice for even and it is still prevalent. But all this is done under a working Plan. The contract system which was in existence earlier has been done away with because forests were getting depleted extensively under that system. Presently, in most of the States Forest Corporations have been set up and they undertake this work in a phased manner.

[English]

DR. A.K. PATEL : Forests are getting depleted. For example, in Gujarat during 1980 during the Janata party regime, the forest area was 9.8%. Today it has come to only 6.2%. Forests are getting depleted year by year and the tribals inhabiting in those areas are displaced. May I know what steps are you going to take to safeguard the interests of these tribals?

SHRI Z.R. ANSARI : As far as the interests of the tribals are concerned, it is basically for that purpose that we are asking the State Governments to send proposals to us because prior to 1980, the forests were being utilised for different programmes for different projects without taking into account needs of the local people, the tribals and also the environmental aspect. That is why, this Act has come and whenever any project comes to us, we scrutinise that project specifically from the point of view of the tribal and those people who are living in that forest area, whether that proposal contains the provisions for meeting the needs of the tribals and other weaker sections of the population who are living in that forest area. This is our policy.

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU : As far as forests are concerned, formerly the forests were under the control of the State Government. Now, it has been taken over by the Central Government.....

SOME HON. MEMBERS : No, no.....

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU : I will tell you. Even, for the clearance of the welfare projects, the powers were vested with the State Government. Not, it has been taken over by the Central Government. It is actually encroaching upon the State's powers.....

MR. SPEAKER : Put the question.

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU : Even so many State schemes are not being cleared because of the environmental problems and because of the deforestation in some of the areas. I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether he will come forward to maintain this status quo ante because it should be under the control of the State Government. Then only, welfare schemes can take place and it can take place and it can also be cleared. But here, the Central Government is not at all clearing any of the welfare. So, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he will come forward.....

MR. SPEAKER : Why should you repeat it now ?

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU : To clear the areas wherever the welfare schemes are being pending with the State Governments.

SHRI Z.R. ANSARI : I strongly deny the fact that we have created any sort of hurdles in the implementation of the projects which are useful for the State Governments. We are clearing all those projects as soon as the full facts are received by us. The main problem lies with the State Governments. They do not send the proposals with full facts. What we require is.....

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU : What do you mean by 'full facts ?' We are sending the proposals.

(Interruptions)

Sir, for the third time he is repeating this.

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down now. Listen. He is explaining.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Kolandaivelu, he is telling what facts are required. Do not fight. Let him answer.

(Interruptions)

SARI Z.R. ANSARI : I am not fighting with you.

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU : It is not a fighting.....

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : If you do it. I will not allow it on the floor of the House.

(Interruptions)

SHRI Z.R. ANSARI : I firmly say that those schemes which have given the full facts regarding the forests area.....

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I am taking a cue from you.

SHRI Z.R. ANSARI : Which required to be diverted from forest to those usefull schemes ; what will be the loss of the trees ; whether any provision for the compensatory afforestation has been made in it or not ; whether the local population is uprooted from that area—mostly the tribals and those weaker sections of the people who live in that forest area ; whether the provision for their rehabilitation has been made ; whether their life-style has been taken into account ; what will be the effect of deforestation ; what sort of forests are there ; whether any environmental problem will be there.....

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Will you give it in writing ?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BHAJAN LAL) : Sir, I want to clarify it a little more. As he has stated, this power of the State Governments has been taken over by the Central Government. I want to prove with the help of figures that from 1951 to 1980, more than 43 lakh hectares of land has been diverted from forest and given to private, people by the State

Governments the averages of which comes to 1½ lakh per year. But since the enactment of this Act in 1980, the average has been reduced to 6,500 hectares per year. We have made efforts to ensure that there is minimum depletion of forests and you can see that in these seven years, only 43 thousand hectares of forest land has been diverted, the average of which comes to about 6,500 hectares per year.

So far as the projects are concerned, no project is held up for clearance for more than 30 days. The States which fulfill the conditions and send us the projects, final decision is taken on those projects within a month.

SHRI MOHD. AYUB KHAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, you are aware that Rajasthan has been suffering from severe famine conditions and human and animal life is in danger in the desert areas. Will the hon. Minister state whether there is any such scheme under the afforestation programme by which these people could be resettled in the forest areas and given land so that they are able to earn their living and forests are also protected and arrangements for water supply are made as well? Is there any such scheme, (*Interruptions*) especially for the desert areas of Jhunjhunu, Sikar and Barmer?

MR. SPEAKER : You have mentioned water. We are affected by drought already, you want to torment us by your questions as well?

SHRI Z. R. ANSARI : Sir, so far as I understand, the question of the hon. Member concerns shifting people into the forest areas...

MR. SPEAKER : He did not mean this. He meant that desert areas should be turned into forest areas so that people can stay there itself.

SHRI BHAJAN LAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Indian Government has a desert development scheme. Under this programme, funds have been specially allotted to Rajasthan so that maximum people can be given employment in the desert

areas and facilities provided for growing trees as well. We have formulated a scheme and provided money to Rajasthan Government for this purpose.

SHRI RAM PYARE PANIKA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is true that after the enactment of the 1986 Act, the area under forests has increased and developed. However, it is also true that states like Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka have indulged in rapid felling of forests to enhance their income overruling the plan of the Forest Department and have not provided the right of cultivation to the tribal people as it should have been done under the Forest Tribal Working Plan. (*Interruptions*) Sir, I know from my experience and I have seen the forests of the country myself. Hence, I will like to ask two questions.

Firstly, will you give definite instructions to the State Governments to ensure that the loss of trees which is incurred by felling of forests under the Working Plan are made good by new plantation?

Secondly, will you direct the State Governments to abide by the assurance given, to the Tribal people of their right of cultivation, specially by our Hon. Prime Minister.

SHRI Z.R. ANSARI : In regard to question which has been raised by the hon. Member, we constantly give guidelines and directions to the State Governments in this matter.

[*English*]

Insurance against Acts of Terrorism

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*576. **SHRI P. PENCHALLIAH**
SHRI K. RAMACHANDRA
REDDY :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether steps have been taken to give adequate publicity to the General Insurance Corporation Scheme to provide