

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

cover for loss or damage caused by acts of terrorism alongwith cover for riots, strikes and malicious damage ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

(c) whether it is also proposed to introduce a specific life insurance scheme to cover loss of life due to acts of terrorism ; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (d). A statement is given below.

Statement

(a) and (b). With effect from 1st January, 1987, insurance cover against losses caused by acts of terrorism has been made available by the general insurance industry as an extension of the Riot, Strike and Malicious Damage risks in various classes of business. A press releases highlighting introduction of this cover has been issued by the General Insurance Corporation of India on 23/12/1986 in all the leading newspapers in India.

(c) and (d). The LIC's policies both Individual and Group cover risk of death from all causes including those arising from acts of terrorism. As such, there is no need to introduce a specific Life Insurance Scheme to cover loss of life due to acts of terrorism. Similarly, any death or bodily injury, caused by terrorists is covered within the scope of Personal Accident Policy of the general insurance industry.

SHRI P. PENCHALLIAH : I would like to know from the hon. Minister how many people have insured so far in the country under this General Insurance Corporation Scheme.

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY : If the hon. Member is referring to the

question regarding Policies that have covered damages caused by acts of terrorists after 1-1-1987—because that was introduced from 1-1-1987—, 31,000 Policies have been issued in the northern region excepting State of Rajasthan).

SHRI P. PENCHALLIAH : My second supplementary is this. What is the amount paid ? Does it include Naxalite activities in Andhra Pradesh ?

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY : So far, twelve claims amounting to Rs. 19 lakhs in these cases have been made ; whether it is an activity by any terrorist or naxalite or any dacoit, this will be covered, in the Policy. This depends upon the Insurance Policy taken.

SHRI K. RAMACHANDRA REDDY : For part (c) of the question which said whether it is also proposed to introduce a specific life insurance scheme to cover loss of life due to acts of terrorism the answer given is that as such there is no need to introduce a specific life insurance scheme to cover loss of life due to acts of terrorism. I would like to inform the Hon. Minister that because these acts of terrorism are on increase.....

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Sir, the Prime Minister, the Defence Minister and the Minister of State for Finance are engaged in a serious confabulation in the House. Are they drafting the terms of reference Sir ?

(Interruptions)

You may call the House to order, Sir.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Order, order.

(Interruptions)

SHRI K. RAMACHANDRA REDDY : Generally, the insurance companies are very reluctant to pay the policy amount and they invent a number of excuses to put hurdles. So, what is wrong if the Government comes forward with some specific schemes to cover the loss of life

due to the act of terrorism? In that case you will be forcing the insurance companies to take these matters also and give life insurance schemes for the terrorist activities.

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY : The life insurance policies are already covering the acts of terrorism, for the loss of life caused due to the acts of terrorism. That is why we have mentioned that there is no need of introducing any new policy.

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN : Mr. Speaker Sir: Such policies covering damages in riots and Civil disturbances, have been in existence for a number of years. Now they have been extended to include damages arising out of terrorism also. I would like to know the coverage of these schemes during 1986 — the number of policies that have been taken from the General Insurance Corporation under the scheme as it was then in existence and the number of beneficiaries or the number of claims made during 1986.

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY : Sir, I have already stated that this scheme has been introduced from 1.1.1987 and already in the northern region (excepting State of Rajasthan) 31000 policies have been issued. About the claims also I have stated.....

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN : You have said that the scheme which was already in existence has been extended in 1.1.87 to cover the element of terrorism... (Interruptions).....There was already a scheme in existence to cover damages during civil commotion or civil disturbance. Is that so? If that is so, then what was the coverage during 1986—the number of claims and the number of policies?

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY : What I have stated was about loss of life caused due to the act of terrorism. I have referred to that. I clearly answered that question placed by the Hon. Member. So, this does not arise now.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Punjab is suffering on account of terrorism and every day the terrorists are killing people in cold blood and many people have become their victims. I want to know from the hon. Minister of State for Finance whether the families of the victims are granted any financial assistance? If you, then what is the amount paid to them? If not, then will it be done in future?

[English]

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY : The loss caused due to the acts of terrorism is already covered by LIC and also the personal accident scheme of General Insurance. So far as compensation given to the people who have been killed because of the terrorist activities is concerned, already State Governments are giving compensation for the loss of life due to the act of terrorism.

Agreement with Cigarette and Rubber Firms on Excise Matters Pending in Courts

*578. **SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS :** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Union Government have reached an agreement with several cigarette and rubber manufacturers regarding excise matters pending in the courts; and

(b) if so, the details of the agreements and the names of the firms with which such agreements have been entered into?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) The Government have not reached any agreement with cigarette and rubber manufacturers regarding excise matters pending in the courts.

(b) Does not arise.

SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS : Sir, there was a press news regarding raids