

The Hon. Prime Minister addressed as conference of the Forest Ministers two days back and he emphasised this point there. It was decided in that meeting that a survey of all the States should be conducted by the Eighth Finance Commission to be constituted during the Eighth Five Year Plan and thereby ascertain as to how much revenue the States receive from forest resources. The Government intends to stop denudation of forests and compensate the revenue loss to the States. The second decision that we have taken is to plant at least 40 trees in every village in the shape of a garden to commemorate the 40th anniversary of our Independence. With the passing of every year, one tree should be added to the garden to indicate that the country has reached 41st or 42nd year of its Independence. We are trying to launch this scheme in the villages and it will be looked after by the village panchayats. Besides, we have also decided to ask the people to plant a tree in the backyard of their house or any other available space to commemorate the birth of every child in the family. Similarly, trees will also be planted on the eve of every auspicious occasion so that the atmosphere is free from pollution. The atmosphere will remain pure only when trees are saved and more and more trees are planted. I fully agree with you in this regard.

[English]

SHRI A. CHARLES: Sir, huge funds are being spent under the social forestry scheme and there are complaints that these funds are being misused. So, May I know from the hon. Minister whether there is any proper monitoring and whether any information has been collected with regard to the survival of trees after three years of their planting? If not, I request that statistics should be collected from each State so as to know as to how many trees survived after a period of three years under this scheme.

[Translation]

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is no use making oral accusations here. He should send written complaints

regarding the places where funds have been misused. We will look into it. However, we make reviews from time to time and see whether the money has been spent properly. If the money has not been spent properly, we take note of it and the State concerned is not allocated any more funds in future.

SHRI RAM PYARE PANIKA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, for the proper development in the country it is essential that 35 per cent of the total area is covered by forests. The States have made forests, a source of their income since Independence. They are earning lot of revenue from major percentage of forest area. But the State Government are not utilising funds for the development of the forests in proportion to the percentage of income they are earning from the forest resources. The Forest Conservation Act, 1980 is not being implemented. I would request the hon. Minister to direct the States to spend at least 50 per cent of the income received from forest sources on afforestation.

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: The hon. Member has expressed right apprehension. The entire revenue received from forest resources should be spent on development of forests. We ask the State Government to take steps in this regard and assistance is also given to them by the Central Government. So far as the Forest Conservation Act is concerned, the annual denudation of forests has declined from 1.5 lakh hectares to 16,000 hectares since 1980. We are trying our level best to check deforestation and encourage afforestation so that we can protect ourselves from flood and drought. Besides, I agree that, 33 per cent of the total area should be covered by forests in the country.

[English]

Loss of Minerals due to Narmada and Sardar Sarovar Projects

*503. SHRI ARVIND NETAM: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the minerals loss likely

to be caused by the Narmada Sagar in Madhya Pradesh and Sardar Sarovar Multi-purpose Project in Gujarat, area-wise loss in quantity and the value thereof;

(b) whether any detailed report of the survey of mineral losses due to the said projects has been prepared; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF MINES IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA): (a) to (c). The Government of Gujarat have intimated that the Sardar Sarovar Project has mainly Deccan Trap rocks under submergence and that this rock type is inexpensive, and available in plenty elsewhere. The Government of Madhya Pradesh have reported that the reservoir will submerge areas which are estimated to have 28 million tonnes of non Steel Melting Shop grade dolomite and some quantities of clay and other minor minerals valued in all at Rs. 28.5 crores.

[Translation]

SHRI ARVIND NETAM: Mr. speaker, Sir, the Government of India has recently accorded its approval to Sardar Sarovar and Narmada Sagar Projects. These are very ambitious projects in the country. In her reply, the hon. Minister has stated that the Government of Gujarat has reported that there is nothing other than Deccan Trap rocks in the area whereas the Government of Madhya Pradesh has reported the presence of minerals worth about Rs. 28 crores. The site of both the projects is adjacent to each other. How is it possible that except rocks there are no other minerals in Gujarat, whereas large quantity of minerals are present in Madhya Pradesh. It appears that the Government of Gujarat has not conducted the survey seriously. Does the hon. Minister have such information?

SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA: I would like to inform the hon. Member that in my preliminary reply I have also stated that the Government of Madhya Pradesh has admitted that clay and minerals worth Rs. 28 crores are present in the area, but

the Government of Gujarat has not given much importance to it. I have stated in my reply that the Deccan Trap rocks are available in plenty everywhere and these are very inexpensive. It is, therefore, not correct to say that the Government of Gujarat did not pay serious attention towards it.

SHRI ARVIND NETAM: The Government of Madhya Pradesh has reported the presence of 28 million tonnes of non Steel Melting Shop grade dolomite. I would like to know whether this huge quantity of 28 million tonnes is located at one place or scattered everywhere? Does the Government propose to extract these minerals on completion of this dam?

SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA: I have already said about the minerals worth Rs. 28 crores. I would like to inform the House that even though minerals worth Rs. 28 crores are present in the area, but it is these projects which are going to benefit from it. These projects will provide irrigation, power and a number of other facilities to the States. Keeping this in view, the minerals are worth little. So far as completing the dam, canal and the entire project is concerned, we shall go on exploiting the minerals which are available there and use them in the construction of these projects.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I can't hear anything because so much of talk is going on. I do not know what is happening. It is like as if you are not in a mood to work.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: It looks like that I feel.

[Translation]

SHRI ARVIND NETAM: Sir, I had put a different question.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I can't hear a thing. You

are all talking amongst yourselves let us work here and talk outside.

[Translation]

SHRI ARVIND NETAM: I asked a different question. I wanted to know whether the Government will exploit the 28 million tonnes of dolomite before the completion of the dam? It has not been clarified?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I can't hear anything. Can't you have any mercy on me? I am appealing to you.

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI M. L. FOTEDAR): The hon. Member has asked as to what will be the position with regard to Dolomite. We have 16,000 million tonnes of Dolomite available in the state of Madhya Pradesh. This thing which will get submerged in the Dam will be only 1.7 per cent of the total deposits of Dolomite in Madhya Pradesh. For the present there is no proposal to take it out and it takes 7-8 years, generally for areas to get submerged.

Development of Darrah Wild Life Sanctuary

*504. SHRI JUJHAR SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by Government to save the forests and the animals of Darrah Wildlife Sanctuary in Kota district of Rajasthan;

(b) the measures taken by Government regarding the afforestation programme along the river Chambal to control the siltation under river valley project;

(c) the amount spent so far on these projects; and

(d) the results achieved?

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BHAJAN LAL): (a)

Steps taken for the protection of the Darrah Wildlife Sanctuary include better protection of the animals and forests, checking illicit grazing, prevention and control of fire, augmentation of fodder and water supply.

(b) The measures taken to control siltation consist of appropriate soil conservation works, afforestation and pasture development.

(c) Rs. 1790.83 lakhs have been spent so far on these measures.

(d) The rate of siltation has come down.

SHRI JUJHAR SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether there has been a continuous reduction in the forest area since the announcement of Darrah Wildlife Sanctuary? Secondly, whether the hon. Minister is aware that the number of animals which were already there has also declined since its declaration as a sanctuary? If so, will he be pleased to state the efforts made in this direction and the results thereof?

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not agree with him so far as reduction in forest area is concerned, since the announcement of the sanctuary. There has been a constant rise in the number of sanctuaries. If you go by the past figures, you will observe that the number of sanctuaries has gone up from 60 in 1960 to 358 today. Similarly, the number of National Parks has risen from 5 to 63. So far as decline in the number of wild animals is concerned. I agree with hon. Member that the number of animals has comparatively gone down. It is mainly, due to large scale poaching of wild animals. We have passed the Prevention of Wildlife Act and taken other steps also to check this. We have strictly implemented these Acts. Ban on hunting was imposed to save rare species of animals. Every effort is being made by the Government to protect the wild animals.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL VYAS: You are talking of poaching, but I would like to tell