

for modernisation against the huge demand of Rs. 193 crores or so, are also not being utilised sometimes due to various difficulties. The small doses are a sort of good for nothing so far as making up the huge losses of NTC is concerned. So, finally I would like to know what is the comprehensive plan of the Ministry to make NTC stand on its own legs. It is incurring huge losses year after year. If you consider from the date of nationalisation or from the date of birth of NTC, you will see that thousands and thousands of crores have gone to make up the losses only. Therefore, what is the comprehensive plan of the Ministry to cut down these losses completely?

KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE: Sir, the hon. Member has raised a very important question about the modernisation of NTC mills. I would like to mention here that NTC has adopted a selective modernisation approach during the Seventh Plan period having regard to the resource constraints. As I have just mentioned, whatever money we get for modernisation is not at all adequate. I do agree with him. In spite of these constraints, NTC has been able to secure a total sanction of the order of Rs. 45.9 crores in respect of 12 mills and proposals in respect of remaining 22 mills involving an outlay of Rs. 147.52 crores and under process by the financial institutions.

SHRI KADAMBUR JANARTHANAN: Sir, in the answer, the Minister had told so many reasons for the losses in NTC mills. Cotton purchased management is also adding to one part of the loss. I want to ask the Minister categorically, through you, Sir, whether it is a fact that out of a total loss of NTC right from 1980, 56 particular mills are causing 85 per cent of the loss? I would like to know whether the Government will come to a categorical conclusion to stop these 56 mills totally because 85 per cent of the loss is being caused by these particular 56 mills in the whole of our country.

KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE: Sir, we are sincerely trying to improve the conditions of NTC mills all over the country. In fact, over

the years the NTC has improved the performance in many operational areas. The production value of the nationalised mills was around 101 in the year 1975-76 and 109 in the year 1986-87. That means the production value has gone up from Rs. 225 crores in the year 1975-76 to approximately Rs. 822 crores in the year 1988-89.

SHRI KADAMBUR JANARTHANAN: Sir, the answer is not full. I want to know whether a policy decision will be taken about these 56 mills which are causing 85 per cent of the loss. It is a burning problem for NTC for the past five years.

MR. SPEAKER: Next question.

[Translation]

Special Grant for courses in Forestry and Environment

*324. **SHRI HARISH RAWAT:** Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal to give special grant to the universities and other academic institutions situated in Himalayan region to start courses in Forestry and Environment is under consideration of Government;

(b) if so, the details of the steps taken in this regard; and

(c) if not, the steps proposed to be taken by Government to make the forests and environment conservation awareness a movement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI SUMATI ORAON): (a) and (b). There is no proposal under consideration of the Government of India to give any special grant to the Universities and other academic institutions situated in Himalayan region to start courses in Forestry and Environment. However, under a scheme operated through the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), grant-in-aid is

given to 14 State Agricultural Universities for establishing facilities for forestry education. Out of these, GB Pant University of Agricultural Science and Technology, Pantnagar, Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Science and Technology, Srinagar, and Dr. YS Parmar University of Horticulture and Forestry, Solan are located in the Himalayan region. All these universities run B.Sc (forestry) courses. Dr. YS Parmar University and Kerala Agricultural University also run postgraduate courses to forestry.

(c) A statement is given below.

STATEMENT

Steps taken for people's awareness on forest and environment conservation

1. Van Mahotsav, Environment Day and Wildlife Week are observed all over the country with a view to focus attention on forests, environment and wildlife.
2. National Environment Month is observed every year from 19th November to 18th December during which a large number of programmes are organised for the benefit of school children, teenagers and teachers, such as quiz contests, declamation contests, special activities for handicapped children, film shows in housing colonies etc.
3. Efforts have been made to promote awareness of the people regarding problems of pollution of rivers in general and Ganga in particular. Issues such as siltation of rivers, industrial pollution and conservation of water resources etc., are focussed. Special target groups like youth, school children, pilgrims, etc. are involved in awareness creating programmes.
4. Voluntary agencies including

youth and women organisations, schools, colleges, universities, etc. are involved in organising various programmes such as seminars, workshops, training courses, Padyatras etc. on environmental themes.

5. Financial assistance is provided for non-formal environment education like production of documentary films, setting up of eco-clubs, seminars etc.
6. Indira Priyadarshini Vriksha Mitra Award and Indira Gandhi Paryavaran Puraskar have been instituted to recognised work relating to people's involvement in social forestry and environment respectively. The awards are given to individuals, voluntary agencies, schools, educational institutions, organisations, etc. in recognition of their work in social forestry and environment.
7. Voluntary agencies are given financial assistance for approaching and motivating local people to undertake tree plantation activities.
8. Setting up of decentralised people's nurseries involving landless poor, small and marginal farmers, mahila mandals, school children, youth groups etc., has been encouraged with a view to involve people in social forestry programmes.

SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has stated in his reply that under a scheme operated through the ICAR, grant-in-aid is given to some universities to run special courses. However, these courses are meant for those who are interested in receiving training or those who want to take up jobs. But my question is about the steps proposed to be taken for including forestry in the general syllabus to create

awareness among the students about forests. I want to know whether the matter has been taken up with the State Governments? I would also like to know whether the Ministry of Environment proposes to hold talks with the State Governments, especially, those who have some hilly areas in their respective states, regarding inclusion of forestry as a subject at primary, middle and higher secondary levels and give special assistance to them?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI): Mr. Speaker, Sir, in view of the importance attached to environment and forests, some information is included in the primary level courses in all the States to create awareness about this subject.

The question of the hon. Members was about the grants to the universities and hence this reply was given. However, the fact remains that we are in constant touch with the State Governments for the development of forests. Suggestions from all levels have been received for creating awareness among the people about environment and forests.

SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the hilly areas, the general feeling among the people about the Ministry of Environment and Forests is that they are not interested in the development for forests. Instead, they put restrictions and hinder the work being undertaken. To remove these apprehensions, will the Ministry of Environment and Forests hold consultations with the State Governments in order to assist them in creating awareness among the people about forests and set up awareness centres at the Panchayat level?

SHRI Z.R. ANSARI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it has been our endeavour to increase awareness among the people by taking up the matter at our level. It is correct that often we do take some measures for the conservation of forests which creates an impression that we put hurdles in the development work. It has never been our intention to put hurdles in the development works. Our objective is to

monitor the development works so as to ensure that our development does not lead us to a situation whereby the entire process of environment is put in the reverse gear and then we may find ourselves helpless in the matter of environmental protection...*(Interruptions)*....

So far as the Panchayats are concerned, the awareness programmes are undertaken at various levels. In this context, the suggestion put forth by the hon. Member will definitely be considered.

[English]

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Sir, conservation of forests and environment is extremely vital for the survival of our nation since it is an agricultural economy. The hon. Minister, in part (c) of his reply, has given a lengthy five-point answer of the various steps taken for people's awareness on forest and environment conservation. I would like to know whether pollution and degradation of the environment and forest is being done by the people and the children or it is being done by the administrators, the Forest Corporations and the various Public Sector Undertakings who show interest in the productive aspect of forestry than the protective aspect. In this respect what steps are being taken to educate the administrators and the bureaucrats who are in charge of such undertakings who discharge effluents and pollute rivers, as well as the air pollution which is happening in the industrial areas of Orissa and other places like Rourkela, Keonjhar and Talcher-Angul area. These functions like the Van Mahotsav, Environment Day and Wildlife Week are mostly held in the capitals of the State or the district headquarters and they are only attended by a few bureaucrats and leading citizens. There is no question of creating awareness by the because the plants which are planted during one Van Mohotsav Day are dead by the time the next Van Mahotsav Day comes. These are experiences because we have also attended some such functions. I would like to know as to what is the alternative means of food, fodder and fuel which are being sought to be given to the people so that

they do not destroy the forests.

SHRI Z.R. ANSARI: Sir, the hon. Member has put two questions. The first question is regarding degradation of environment; whether it is done by one set of people or by another set of people. I think this environment degradation is nobody's monopoly. It is done by every person who is not aware of the importance of the environment. That is why we are taking all steps to create environment awareness not only amongst children, not only amongst the general public but also amongst the bureaucrats, amongst the persons who are involved in certain developmental activities, officers and others. We have taken steps under the Environment Protection Act to see that not only the Private sector undertakings but also the public sector undertakings are also punished if they pollute the atmosphere or pollute the waters or degrade the environment. That is the answer in respect of part (a) of this question.

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: What about the public functions like Van Mahotsav, Wildlife Week etc.?

SHRI Z.R. ANSARI: I am rather inclined to agree with the hon. Member that these programmes of awareness are not picking up as desired by us. Therefore, I would like to say that it cannot pick up unless there is the people's participation and unless the public come forward to create enthusiasm and make use of these important functions. As far as the tree plantation programme—Van Mahotsav—is concerned, I would like to say that the tree planted in the Van Mahotsav of one year is being uprooted by the time the second Van Mahotsav comes. Our programmes are such as to involve people right from the beginning. Under the Wasteland Development Board Programme, right from the time of the plantation to the final stage wherever these plantation programmes are taken up, local people, tribals and the village people who reside there are involved in this. And according to their requirement of the tree plantation, all sorts of trees are planted and an impression is created that this plan-

tation is for their use and they will be the beneficiaries of this plantations.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA: In Uttar Pradesh, trees in the forests are cut to supply fuel wood to the sugar factories. No other industry consumes fuel wood in such a large quantity as the sugar factories does. Around 100 acres of forests are cut to supply fuel wood to the sugar factories along thereby causing colossal damage to the forests. Secondly, it is only on paper that the steps taken to check pollution find mention. But on inquiry, you will find that contaminated effluents of sugar factories are drained into the Chhoti Gandak which results in the death of fish in the river. The pollution has increased to such an extent that the water is not fit even for the consumption of cattle. In the villages, either sugarcane leaves or fuel wood is used for cooking as there is no provision of cooking gas or any other alternative fuel. As long as no alternative, provision replace fuel wood for cooking food in the villages is made and the supply of wood to the sugar factories is not stopped, the felling of trees will continue unchecked.

SHRI Z.R. ANSARI: This is not linked to the main question. If you permit me, I shall reply to it. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA: The entire House is of the view that half an hour discussion may be allowed on this issue.

MR. SPEAKER: O.K. I have heard it.

New Godowns in M.P.

*325. **SHRI KAMMODILAL JATAV:** Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Food Corporation of India and Central Warehousing Corporation godowns in Madhya Pradesh, and their capacity and locations;

(b) whether Government propose to