

Obituary References

to be preserved. If it is not answered here, it has got to be preserved and answered. You said opportunity will be given and that will get the priority. But that does not mean that the question which is on the question paper need not be answered. The question which has been given notice of—members came to know of it and we are ready to put supplementaries and the Minister is prepared to answer and that question has got to be answered. Merely because this is answered, the other question cannot be wiped out because under the rule of priority there is a fundamental right to the Member. That question must come up and it must be answered—may not be today because of circumstances, but that cannot be taken as a sort of precedent or rule. You have ruled that it will be allowed and that must be allowed and this question has also to be answered.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS**Setting up of Energy Plantation**

*1. SHRI SHAMBHU NATH CHATURVEDI:

SHRI DURGA CHAND:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the agro forestry experts have suggested the raising of large scale energy plantations on vast stretches of unused lands as an important measure to tackle the current energy crisis and dependence on renewed resources rather in fossil fuels which are exhaustible; and

(b) the Government's reaction thereto and how does Government seek to implement it?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA): (a) During 16th—18th May 1979; a National Seminar on Agro-Forestry, jointly sponsored by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research and the Government of Manipur was

Re. Motion for Adjournment

held at Imphal. In this seminar various aspects about raising of energy plantations to be taken up under Social Forestry and Agro forestry were discussed. However the recommendations of the Seminar have not been received by Government.

(b) Under the circumstances the question does not arise.

SHRI SHAMBHU NATH CHATURVEDI: Sir, I want to know whether the Government has any scheme, apart from recommendations of that Seminar for the utilisation and making optimum use of land not suited for agricultural purposes, for raising fuel, fodder timber, trees on the foothills of Himalaya and other arid and semi-arid areas?

SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA: The hon. Member has asked many questions. These are separate questions. On utilisation of land on the foothills, arid areas and semi-arid areas, there is one scheme for all that. If he wants to have a detailed information, I can supply him provided he puts separately the questions regarding this.

SHRI SHAMBHU NATH CHATURVEDI: Sir, the question is very simple—whether Government has any scheme for making use of arid and semi-arid areas which are not being put to agricultural use for plantation of trees which may be used for timber or for fuel and other purposes. This is a simple question.

SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA: Social forestry which was a centrally-sponsored scheme has now been transferred to the States. Lots of forests are grown in areas which are lying in wastelands. Where there are degenerated forests and where there are panchayat lands, the State has already been making use of the lands under social forestry. That is being done.

SHRI SHAMBHU NATH CHATURVEDI: When there is no scheme,

then how does the Government propose to stop erosion of valuable lands and siltation of rivers without providing the tunnels for the unused and bare lands?

SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA: As stated already, we have schemes for these also.

श्री सुरजित चन्ध : मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहूंगा कि अभी जो इम्फाल में नेशनल सेमिनार एगो फोरेस्ट्री पर हुआ है, उस में क्या सारी स्टेट्स का रिप्रेजेंटेशन था, उस सेमिनार में सब स्टेट्स के रिप्रेजेंटेटिव्स शामिल थे और क्या उस में इन बातों पर विचार हुआ है कि जो कोस्टल एरियाज हैं और हमारी जो हिमालियन रेन्ज है और जो ड्राई एरियाज हैं, उन में कौन से ट्रैक्ट उगाए जाएं, जो प्यूल इनर्जी का काम दे सकें ? मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि कौन से ट्रैक्ट प्लान्ट करने के लिए उन्होंने अपनी रिक्मेंडेशन दी हैं या मजेजेशन दी हैं और क्या कोई स्कीम गवर्नमेंट आफ इन्डिया की है, जिस में ड्राई एरियाज में ट्रैक्ट उगाए जाएं । और वे जल्दी उग सकें और वे प्यूल एनर्जी, टिम्बर और फोडर के काम आ सकें ? क्या कोई रिमर्च भी इस बारे में की गई है ?

श्री सुरजित सिंह बरनाला : यह सेमिनार जो हुआ था, उस में तीन दिन तक डिस्कशन चली और सब स्टेट्स ने उस में पार्टिसिपेट किया । उस में जो डिस्कशन हुई, वह इसी बात पर हुई कि प्यूल के लिए और फोडर के लिए कौन से ट्रैक्ट लगाए जाने चाहिए, जिन में लकड़ी जल्दी मिल सके, फोडर भी मिल सके और फूट्स भी मिल सकें । इन्हीं बातों पर सारी बहस हुई थी ।

SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, after the advent of Janata Government, the forest is being indiscriminately destroyed. I want to know whether, as in Punjab, they are growing trees on either side of the road, the scheme is going to be extended throughout the country. If so, how much time will the Minister take for this programme?

SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA: Growing of trees alongside the roads is also being done under social forestry scheme. Punjab has done well; Haryana has also done well. Some other States like Gujarat are doing very well. Some States are doing a very good work in this. Some States are lagging behind. We have written letters to all of them. They come to seminars. There also we talk to

them about this. We have called their officers also so that afforestation is done in all the States. That is needed also. I may tell the hon'ble Member that during the last 30 years there has been large-scale de-forestation. We are making maximum efforts now for planting more and more trees. The hon'ble Members will be pleased to know that this year we are thinking of planting about 30 crore trees.

SHRI N. TOMBI SINGH: I would like to express my appreciation for the seminar sponsored by the Government of Manipur and ICAR. The State of Manipur and the adjoining areas have been suffering from acute shortage of plantation. Since the Second World War there has been indiscriminate destruction of forests and there has not been sufficient programme for afforestation all these years. May I know whether ICAR will take initiative and not leave it to the State governments, which have practically no financial resources and suggest means as quickly as possible—not awaiting the recommendations which may come very late—and provide adequate funds for the implementation of the recommendations so received.

SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA: ICAR is a research body. They do not go in the field for growing plants. This is the function of the State governments. They will make recommendations whatever recommendations are to be made for that particular area and this Conference was held for that very reason in that area.

Shortage of Drinking Water in Delhi

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* 2. **SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK:**

SHRI CHIMANBHAI H. SHUKLA:

Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING AND SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been acute shortage of drinking water in the