

SHRI OWAISI : These buildings are at places which are very far off and nobody goes there and if anybody goes there and wants to offer 'Namaz' there, he should be allowed to do so, because such a restriction is bringing a bad name to the country.

[*English*]

SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY : From Nagarjunasagar to Srisailem Sagar of the entire Krishna river, there is a launch service and the launch by name 'Zariya' purchased from Soviet Russia is now in operation. This river tour is unique in its kind. In the whole of India, there is no such service. The entire launch service goes in the river valley from one Sagar to another Sagar. Unfortunately, this picturesque and beautiful spot has not been brought to the tourist map. No documentary has been prepared. The entire area can be converted into a virtual 'Disney land.' But unfortunately this has not been brought to the tourist map and no documentary has been prepared. No film has been prepared.

Will the Government take steps to see that this is brought into the tourist map and also a film is shown on that ?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI RAJIV GANDHI) : The tourism development programmes are presented by the State to us and then we look into them to see what we can do. I believe there are no plans at the moment pending from Andhra Pradesh.

Regarding making it into a 'Disney Land', I believe the whole of Andhra Pradesh is being made into a make-believe world !

SHRI E. AYYAPA. REDDY : This is a 'Disney Land' where starvation has been banished and people are able to purchase rice at Rs. 2/- per Kg.

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO : This dream should be converted into a reality !

SHRI DINEH SINGH : There are many important places of tourist interest in Andhra Pradesh and tourism will

develop there only when there is a programme of organised groups that are taken to Andhra Pradesh.

Would it be possible for Air India and the Tourism Development Council to organise groups ?

So far, the groups are only travelling in the North. They come to Delhi, Agra, Jaipur, Benaras and onwards.

Would it be possible to organise tour that takes them to the South and then they can have the exit point in Madras ?

PROF. N.G. RANGA : It is a good suggestion.

[*Translation*]

SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT : The tourists who come from outside the country, have their tour programmes preplanned. The travel agents formulate prior programmes to bring them here and according to the programme, the tourists are go to Andhra Pradesh and the South.

[*English*]

Economic Upliftment of Tribals Through Forestry Programmes

***752 SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO :** Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Committee on Forestry Programmes for alleviation of poverty has submitted its report;

(b) if so, the main recommendations concerning different aspects of tribal economic upliftment through the forestry programmes;

(c) whether his Ministry has discussed with the concerned Ministries/Departments and the States on the basis of these recommendations and prepared schemes and programmes during the Seventh Five Year Plan; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI VIR SEN) : (a) Yes, Sir,

(b) Statement-I containing the main recommendations is laid on the Table of the House.

(c) Discussions have been held on the basis of these recommendations and proposals drawn up for the Seventh Five Year Plan.

(d) Statement-II containing the list of draft proposals proposed for inclusion in the VII Plan is placed on the Table of the House. The Seventh Plan has not yet been finalised.

Statement-I

Main Recommendations of the Committee on Forestry Programmes for Alleviation of Poverty

1. Identification of beneficiary schemes

- 1.1. Contractors should be eliminated from all forestry operations.
- 1.2. Massive afforestation should be taken up through Individual Beneficiary Schemes.
- 1.3. People's movement should be created in favour of Social Forestry.
- 1.4. People should be led to evolve location-specific agro-forestry techniques.
- 1.5. (a) Production, processing, storage marketing etc. of minor forest produce should be developed.
- 1.5. (b) Employment generation of 25 million standard person years should be aimed at.
- 1.6. Forest-based cottage industries should be promoted.
- 1.7. Shifting cultivators should be induced to take up settled cultivation of crops like rubber, coffee etc. in situ.
- 1.8. Forest Villagers should be given loans etc. to develop by growing food and animal protein.
- 1.9. Artisans should be trained in

designing, marketing etc. and be provided raw material & camping facilities.

1.10. Tree-leaf fodder & pasture should be developed.

1.11. Tribals should be involved in scientific management of trees on their land and returns to them be maximised.

2. Financial

2.1. Adequate funds should be provide for raising plantations, conversion of shifting cultivation to settled cultivation, elimination of poverty through cottage industries, development of forest villages, collection, processing and marketing of minor forest produce in the Forestry Sector, Rural Development Department etc. Foreign aid should also be used.

2.2. NABARD should support social forestry projects.

3. Organisational Changes :

- 3.1. Department of Forestry should be created at the Centre.
- 3.2. Establishment of Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education.
- 3.3. Department of Forestry should be created in each State.
- 3.4. Existing Central Forestry Commission should be upgraded as a National Forest Commission.
- 3.5. Forest Research Institute, Dehradun should be made a National Forest Research University.
- 3.6. A National Forest Produce Corporation should be created at the Central Government level.

Statement-II

Main Schemes listed in the draft Seventh Five Year Plan for the Forestry Sector are :—

1. Proper Land use through Tree Farming.

2. Social Security through Plantations.
3. Plantation for Tassar Cocoons.
4. Imparting Training to improve Skills and Crafts.
5. Development of Forest-based Cottage Industries.
6. Minor Forest Produce Development Corporation in the States and at the Centre.
7. Plantation of Minor Forest Produce Species including Medicinal Plants.
8. Lac cultivation.

SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO : This question is a basic policy question because it concerns two things : the economic aspect of the tribals and the ecological aspect of forests. I would like to know whether the Government has accepted these recommendations in full. The Minister has indicated in the statement a list of draft proposals proposed for inclusion in the Seventh Plan, the only important thing there is the Minor Forest Produce Development Corporation which has been proposed, it has not yet been finally announced. Keeping these things in view, I would like to know how the Government propose to eradicate the drawbacks in the forest policy, whether the Government is going to announce a new forest policy by which the impediments in the implementation of the schemes will be removed.

SHRI VIR SEN : As far as the recommendations are concerned, it is clear that some of the recommendations have been accepted and we are acting upon them. The second question is about the Minor Forest Produce Development Corporation. This is also under consideration and it will be established in due course of time. The third question is about the new forest policy. The new forest policy is also under consideration, and I hope that, in a very short time, it will be placed before the House.

SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO : Apart from this recommendation, there are a number of other recommendations on shifting cultivation, encroachment in forest areas, etc. These were recommended long

back, but due to lack of implementation of the schemes, the economic upliftment of the tribals based on forests has not yet taken place. I want to know whether it is a fact that the infrastructure required for implementation of any programme including this programmes is : interpretation of scheme, the identification of the programme, the implications of the scheme on the tribals, impact on the tribals if the scheme is extended to those areas and involvement of the tribals which is important in forestry programmes, I want to know whether this mental infrastructure which is a component of the mind will be implemented and if so, in what way.

SHRI VIR SEN : The hon. Member has asked a few questions...

MR. SPEAKER : You answer to only one. He is entitled to only one supplementary and you can answer whichever question you like.

SHRI VIR SEN : As far as shifting cultivation is concerned, we have given instructions and directions that, as far as possible, they should be induced to take up settled cultivation. It is recommended in this report also that efforts should be made to see that the tribals begin to cultivate at a particular place, they should settle at one place. It is also suggested that plantations like rubber plantation and tea or coffee plantation should be resorted to in these areas where jhuming cultivation is going on.

SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO : My question was about implementation.

SHRI VIR SEN : As far as implementation is concerned, it will have to be done by the State Government. We can only, as I have already said, give directions and advice to the State Government, and it is for the State Government to act upon them.

SHRI ANAND GAJAPATHI RAJU : The upliftment of the tribals is a very important programme. Also the general feeling that goes is that the programmes that are implemented for tribals are basically implemented for the entrepreneurs rather than for the people who work, for

the people who go round doing *podu* cultivation, who are always on the move. Because these tribals are always on the move and they are not used to be entrepreneurs, imaginative programmes have to be devised so that they could be brought into the economic mainstream. Secondly, their culture and orientation should also be taken into consideration. Because hundreds of crores of rupees have been spent on this programme, will the Minister devise something which is more innovative and which dovetails with the economic operations of the tribals ?

SHRI VIR SEN : The Forestry Committee for eradication of poverty has given a number of suggestions and we are taking into consideration those suggestions and will be acting upon them.

SHRI ARVIND NETAM : Between 50 to 80 per cent income of the tribals comes from forests. In the Sixth Plan as well as the Seventh Plan one of the objectives is the eradication of poverty amongst the tribals. There is 100 to 300 per cent difference in the prices of minor forest produce at which the tribals are actually selling and the prices at which they are sold in the market. So will the Government take necessary steps to reduce this gap in the prices of minor forest produce and assure the tribals remunerative prices for their minor forest produce ? This one item will create a lot of impact on the eradication of poverty. It will also help in two aspects—one is conservation of forests and the pressure on land will also be reduced.

SHRI VIR SEN : A Minor Forest Produce Corporation is being proposed and it will look after every aspect of this problem. Buying, collection and marketing—every aspect will be looked after by this corporation.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : There are a number of Girijan colonies in my constituency. When I visit, almost in every colony there is a complaint that these Girijans and tribals cannot avail of the facilities given by the Government because of the very strict enforcement of the Forest Conservation Act by the Government. That is to say, they are given

housebuilding loans but they cannot construct the house because they are not allowed even to cut the tree which they have planted. A very strict enforcement of the Forest Conservation Act is there in my State of Kerala. Therefore, I would like to know whether the Minister has received such complaints and if so, what action he would take to ensure that the strict enforcement of the Forest Conservation Act does not stand in the way of the development of the tribals.

SHRI VIR SEN : No such complaint has been received by me. If any such complaint is received, we will look into it.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Take this as a complaint and then answer.

SHRI VIR SEN : We will look into it.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : I have visited a number of colonies in my constituency. They have told me this problem.

SHRI VIR SEN : There are certain restrictions under the Forest Conservation Act where it is necessary for the State Government to come to the Centre for a no-objection certificate. When this question comes, we will consider it. At present we have received no complaints and if any such complaints are received, we will look into them.

SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN : You know, Sir, there are tribal people who are living in the forests and their culture and traditions and even their economy fully depends upon the forests. And according to the Central guidelines, during 1984-85, 16.19 per cent of the outlay on forestry in States sector was earmarked for the tribals. Is it a fact that there are some allegations that some States did not implement this directive—particularly Bihar State ? May I know what positive steps have been taken against those States who have not followed the Central directive ?

SHRI VIR SEN : The Central Government has no authority to take any action.

SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN : But there is a directive.

SHRI VIR SEN : Directives, of course,

can be issued but it depends on the person receiving the directive whether he implements it or not.

[*Translation*]

“Closure of Mussoorie Lime Mines for Environment Protection”

*753. SHRI PIYUS TIRAKY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to close the sixtyone lime mines of Mussoorie hills permanently for protection of environment;

(b) if so, by what time; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI VIR SEN) : (a) After a detailed consideration of the environmental and socio-economic impact of the limestone mining operations in Mussorie Hills, the Supreme Court has ordered that—

- (i) 27 mines be closed permanently and taken up for reclamation;
- (ii) 6 mines be allowed to continue mining operations; and
- (iii) 19 mines be reviewed by a High powered Committee to consider their continuation or otherwise.
- (iv) 9 mines were not being operated even before the judgement.

(b) and (c) Supreme Court has set up a High Powered Committee to report about the 19 mines to decide whether they should be continued or not.

SHRI PIYUS TIRAKY : Sir, Mussoorie is a beautiful place and it attracts many tourists also from different countries. Is it not a fact that big businessmen are operating mining business there and the government is hesitating to take any drastic measures to close these mining operations ? These mining operations are doing more harm than good to the hill city of Mussoorie. May I also

know whether it is a fact that on this very subject villagers of the area submitted a petitions committee of Rajya Sabha in 1983 ? What were the recommendations of the Petitions Committee ? What action has the Government taken so far on those recommendations ?

SHRI VIR SEN : Sir, I require a fresh notice to answer this supplementary.

SHRI PIYUS TIRAKY : Sir, the petition was filed before the Petitions Committee.

MR. SPEAKER : He might have to find out the details.

SHRI PIYUS TIRAKY : As a result of the 27 mines having been closed how many workers were rendered jobless and what alternate employment has been given to them ? If not, why not ?

SHRI VIR SEN : Sir, the decision of the Supreme Court has been there recently and, I think, this particularly relates to the Labour Department.

SHRI PIYUS TIRAKY : Sir, I am not satisfied.

MR. SPEAKER : Please repeat your question.

SHRI PIYUS TIRAKY : After the clousure of the mines.

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY : Answers are not coming.

SHRI PIYUS TIRAKY : He has said that 27 mines have been closed. As a result of the closure of 27 mines how many workers have been rendered jobless ? How many of them have been provided with alternative employment ? If not, why not ?

AN HON. MEMBER : Quite relevant.

MR. SPEAKER : He does not have the information because Labour Ministry is dealing with this subject. Labour Ministry will be able to answer this subject, not he. This question is only for environment, asking whether those mines have been closed or not. If the closure affects