

# LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Wednesday, April, 10, 1985/

Chaitra 20, 1907 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of  
the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Today the attendance is very thin.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Today, there is quality...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : It seems Shri Nayak is not present. Next question Shri Ramswaroop Ram. It is prefixed by Ram and suffixed by Ram and Balram is sitting in the middle...*(Interruptions)*

## ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

“International Conference on Environmental Education”

\*365. SHRI RAMSWAROOP RAM : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether India participated at the recently held International Conference on Environmental Education;

(b) whether the Resolutions adopted at the Conference will be laid on the table;

(c) whether the Conference suggested some measures and means that would promote ecologically sustainable development in rural areas of the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action proposed by Government to implement those Resolutions?

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

(b) A copy of the Resolutions adopted at the Conference is enclosed.

(c) and (d). Yes, Sir. The recommendations from (c) to (f) particularly relate to measures and means for promotion of ecologically sustainable development in rural areas of the Country;

(e) The suggestions are under examination and consideration of the Government.

## Resolutions

- (a) Environmental Education Associations at the national level should be established to serve the professional needs of environmental educators, to create linkages with Governmental and non-governmental agencies, and to assist in development and dissemination of curriculum materials;
- (b) University teacher training programmes should incorporate training in environmental education. Only when environmental education assumes a central place in all education will it begin to influence environmental management and policy. Such training should include scientific and cultural studies related to human activities and the environment;
- (c) Each nation should consider establishment of a Youth Environment Corps consisting of youth age 16-22; the Corps would work on projects which promote ecologically sustainable development, especially in rural areas. Youth Corps projects should provide environmental knowledge and skills for participants in the programme;
- (d) Environmental Education Councils

composed of local residents, officials, farmers, teachers and businessmen and local bodies responsible for various environmentally related projects and programmes should be established at the local level. Such Councils would serve in an advisory capacity to assist in implementation of programmes at the local level;

- (e) Environmental education demonstration projects should be established at the local level in concert with economic development projects to demonstrate the benefits of such a partnership. Such projects are necessary to gain local support for environmental education and to provide a working model for ecologically sustainable development;
- (f) Simple, easily applicable techniques should be developed for use by rural school teachers to demonstrate the practical importance of conserving nature ;
- (g) Environmental educators must develop practical pedagogical methods which address problems of environmental health in daily life, e.g. clean drinking water, appropriate waste disposal, proper sanitation practices, as well as provide concepts and values regarding human-environment relationships;
- (h) Environmental Education curricula should be reviewed and, where appropriate, revised to provide inclusion of scientific and cultural (humanities, politics, economics) content sufficient to ensure that students understand the scientific basis of environment and ecology and the organisation and processes of human societies. Without this scientific and cultural understanding students are unable to develop a useful holistic perspective for effective citizenship and professional life;
- (i) Universities, educational, and research and development institutions should be encouraged to

generate new vistas of knowledge relating to environmental management in their respective areas of specialisation; and

- (j) The International Society for Environmental Education should establish a global Environmental Education communications system to disseminate information and monitor indicators of the Biosphere's environmental quality such as soil erosion, fresh water availability, food production, energy utilisation, population growth, pollution loading, rates of deforestation, rates of desertification and levels of soil salinization.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAMSWAROOP RAM : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the problem of environment is getting serious. Outwardly it does not look like a problem but it is a deep wound which is gradually affecting the people in a serious way.

[*English*]

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Is it an inaugural address to the question ?

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAMSWAROOP RAM : Mere reference to environment or planting of trees will not solve the problem of environment. There are several inherent problems such as the pollution of rivers which is taking place. Even today three crore people take bath in rivers.

[*English*]

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Could the Minister cull out the question from his speech ?

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAMSWAROOP RAM : This being an important question, I shall take some time. More than one crore people drink the same polluted water of the rivers. The factories are also causing pollution. I would like to thank our young Prime Minister because he first gave his attention to the Ganges, which is sacred river and

has been polluted. Provision has been made for its purification.

MR. SPEAKER : Please put the question. I know you are addressing the Prime Minister and not me

SHRI RAMSWAROOP RAM : I was about to put the question. If you are putting pressure, I may ask the question...

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I was myself feeling the pressure. I was thinking that I may have to put the question myself

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMSWAROOP RAM : I would like to know whether the Government propose to formulate a comprehensive policy in the Seventh Five Year Plan to solve the problem of environment so that the problem of rural and urban environment is solved ? What is the outline of that policy ?

MR. SPEAKER : So, the question was with you in writing.

SHRI VIR SEN : Government are fully alive to all the aspects of environment and programmes have been chalked out to cover all the aspects of the problem. Government are already considering inclusion of the subject of environment in the syllabus of the universities and educational institutions to impart environmental education to the people and to create awareness among the youth in regard to the environment. All these issues are before Government.

SHRI RAMSWAROOP RAM : Mr. Speaker, Sir, there must be public awakening towards environment and the people should show interest in it. In India, about 50 crore people live in the villages and they are not acquainted with the word environment. Do Government intend to include the subject of environment in school curricula from the primary education level to create awareness in them towards environment so that the students come to know about environment from the very beginning, which will create public awareness towards environment.

MR. SPEAKER : You have put a good question. Let the hon. Minister reply to it.

SHRI RAMSWAROOP RAM : I want that the students should be given education regarding environment from the primary stage and that the programme be speeded up. Government should ensure that this is included in the curricula from the primary stage.

SHRI VIR SEN : Efforts are being made to include environment as a subject from the primary level to the degree level. It is also the endeavour of Government to include this subject in the curricula of universities and in other courses and to disseminate knowledge thereof to students at all levels, from the class I to Junior high school, senior school and intermediate levels.

*[English]*

SHRI SURESH KURUP : The Forest Preservation Ordinance in Kerala is going to lapse this week. The Kerala Government has declared that it is not going to re-introduce the Ordinance, which will affect some 60,000 acres of forests in Kerala, i.e. private forests which were nationalized. So, what is the attitude of the Central Government regarding this ? It poses a very serious problem.

SHRI VIR SEN : The question relates to the recently-held conference in Delhi. I think this will require notice.

SHRI SURESH KURUP : It is a serious problem regarding environment.

*[Translation]*

MR. SPEAKER : He has asked whether any such Conference was held.....

SHRI VIR SEN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the question does not have any connection with the Conference in any way. This is a separate question. The question of Conference does not arise from this question.

*[English]*

SHRI SURESH KURUP : The Forest Preservation Ordinance in Kerala is going to lapse this week, and Kerala Government has declared that it is not going to re-introduce it.

MR. SPEAKER : He cannot do anything about it. It is a State subject. That has to be done by the State Government.

[Translation]

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI RAJIV GANDHI) : The Ordinance was not discussed in the Conference.

[Translation]

SHRI PRATAP BHANU SHARMA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know whether the resolutions of the recently concluded International Conference on Environmental Education.....

[English]

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : I have one suggestion : in case the Ordinance is going to lapse, let him at least use his good offices to see that the Ordinance is not allowed to lapse. I request the Minister to use his good offices.

SHRI VIR SEN : It concerns the State Government.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : The Minister can make a suggestion.....

(Interruptions)\*\*

MR. SPEAKER : Not allowed.

(Interruptions)\*\*

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down.

[Translation]

SHRI PRATAP BHANU SHARMA : In the recently concluded International Conference of Environmental Education, it has been suggested in para "d" of the Resolution that Environment Councils should be constituted at the local level. Our Government had taken a decision about two years ago to constitute Environmental Education Councils and Advisory Councils. In view thereof, are all the State Government making efforts to constitute those Councils ? What is the attitude of the Central Government regarding the constitution of these Councils at present ?

SHRI VIR SEN : Our State Government has taken some decisions in this regard while other State Governments have not taken any decision. However, several departments and agencies are already

there which look after this work such as D.R.D.A., District Planning Committee and District Block Committee. So, there is no need to constitute a new Committee for the purpose.

MR. SPEAKER : Vir Senji, Shri Ramswaroop Ram has given a good suggestion. You start with the children. They should be taught civic sense or afforestation and this is good for all. Every child in the school should be asked to plant a tree, They should be told that it is their duty to do this and the trees will bear their names.

SHRI VIR SEN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is already a scheme. "A Tree For Every Child" scheme is being introduced under the Plan.

[English]

#### Review of Reservation Policy

\*366. SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government has decided to review the reservation policy in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA) : (a), (b) & (c). The policy of reservation with reference to reservation of seats in Lok Sabha and State Assemblies was reviewed in 1980 when the bill for extending the period of reservation beyond 1980 was introduced in the Lok Sabha. It was felt that the Social, Education and Economic conditions of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes is not at par with the other Section of the population and therefore, there is a need for reservation of seats in the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies upto 1990.

There is at present no proposal to review the above.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Before he asks a question, I want some clarification about printing of this question.