

with the initiative of the hon. Member of Parliament Shri Ram Vilas Paswan who is putting this question. I would like to know whether the Minister has got any report? If he has got any report, he may say so. If not, the hon. Member of Parliament, Shri Ram Vilas Paswan is, by putting this question, just trying to.....

MR. SPEAKER : You are not replying to him. You are not supposed to reply.

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN : I have not received any such report.

SHRI K. MAYATHEVAR : Sir, I am quite aware of the fact that the Central Government is distributing enough food to the States. I am not having any difference of opinion on that. Although the Central Government is distributing sufficient food to Tamil Nadu, theretwere 29 deaths due to starvation during the last month in Tamil Nadu. The matter was raised in the Assembly also by the Communist Members and the DMK Members and it was accepted by the State Government. But the facts and figures were not given to this Government.

I want to known whether the Central Government would check up as to whether 29 persons had died of starvation in Tamil Nadu? Further, Sir.....

MR. SPEAKER : Now, let him answer. There is no time.

SHRI K. MAYATHEVAR : Would the Minister verify and find out the truth?

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN : Sir, we have not received any such report from the State Government. But if the hon. Member gives us any specific instance, we will enquire into it.

MR. SPEAKER : You give him any specific instance. He says, "I will enquire into it." You give him specific case.

श्री मनीराम बागड़ी : मैं मंत्री जी से यह कहना चाहूंगा कि राजस्थान के अन्दर जो मौतें हुई हैं, जिन को बीमारी से मौतें करार दिया गया है, वे अकालग्रस्त क्षेत्रों के अन्दर ही हुई हैं। तो क्या सरकार ने यह जानने की कोशिश की है कि यह बीमारी सिर्फ अकाल-

ग्रस्त क्षेत्र के अन्दर ही क्यों हुई, दूसरी जगहों पर क्यों नहीं हुई। इस का स्पष्ट और साफ मतलब यह होता है कि कम खाये या बिन खाये या कतई न खाये, इस कारण ये मौतें हुई हैं। ये तीन कारण हैं, जिन से मौतें हुई हैं और ये तीनों कारण स्टारवेशन के होते हैं। तो क्या सरकार इन तमाम बातों की जांच करवा रही है? असल में दोष यह है कि कोई मंत्री जिम्मेवार है नहीं इस सब के लिये। ये बेचारे खेती के मंत्री हैं, ये मजदूरी के हैं और कोई जिम्मेवार आदमी नहीं है, जो कि इन मौतों की जिम्मेवारी ले। क्या मंत्री जी इस के बारे में बतायेंगे।

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTION
Pollution Caused by Felling Trees in Mandla
District (MP)

*665. SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the environmental pollution caused by felling trees in Mandla District, Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether any directives have been given in this matter by the Central Government; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) Indiscriminate felling of trees leads to soil erosion, flood, drought and loss of soil productivity resulting in general environmental degradation. Denuded areas are reported to exist largely outside the Reserved and Protected forests in Mandla district, Madhya Pradesh. Felling of trees in Reserved and Protected forests is done under the provisions of the Working Plans and Schemes.

(b) Guidelines are given by the Central Government to the State Governments from time to time regarding conservation and management of forests.

(c) A statement indicating the salient features of the guidelines is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

Statement indicating the salient features of relevant advice.

1. Forest Development Corporations or similar agencies should be asked to take up plantations on steep hill sites, catchment areas and clear-felled forest areas so that productive forestry and protective forestry go hand in hand.
2. A massive programme of social forestry should be taken up both under the Food for Work Programme and other specific schemes. The wastelands in villages, all community lands, field bunds, canal bunds etc., could be clothed with fast growing species under these schemes.
3. A drive should be launched for planting trees not only in forest reserves but in all degraded land and community land and along avenues.
4. In areas where tribals depend heavily on forests for their livelihood, they should be involved in replanting the species that they are already exploiting. A scheme for forest farming should be undertaken. Particular attention must be paid to the replanting or fresh planting of fruit trees.
5. The system of contracting away forests should be replaced or modified to see that every tree felled should be replaced by planting of at least another one if not more.
6. Forest contracts for felling should not be allowed in areas of good reserve forests. There might be a moratorium on felling in all catchment areas, hill slopes and tank beds.
7. It is also necessary to introduce a new value system in dealing with afforestation programmes. The new ethos should be that the plantation programme should not necessarily be for production purposes but also for providing bar land with proper tree cover to derive other intangible, benefits of long-range import. As far as possible, the question of clear-felling forests with primary characteristics of natural vegetation and in the process of ecological progression should not arise. Such forests should be so managed as not to lead to degradation under any circumstances.

Remunerative Price for Cotton

*669. SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have decided to fix the remunerative prices for cotton growers for their produce;

(b) if so, what would be the remunerative prices; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN) : (a) Government as a policy have been fixing minimum support price for cotton at a level which is considered remunerative to the cotton growers.

(b) The minimum support price for the basic (J-34) variety of Cotton announced by Government for the current cotton marketing year ending on 31.8.83, is Rs. 380 per quintal of kapas.

(c) Does not arise.

Decline in Pulses and Gram Yield Per Hectare

*670. SHRI ASHFAQ HUSSAIN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that in 1970 yield per hectare for pulses was 524 kg. as against 475 kg. in 1981;

(b) whether it is also a fact that for gram in 1960 yield was 674 kg./ha. which fell to 584 kg./ha. in 1981;

(c) whether it is correct that China, Mexico and USA have raised their output