

LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Monday, March 26, 1984/Chaitra 6,

1906 (Saka)

*The Lok Sabha met at five minutes past
Eleven of the Clock*

(MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

अध्यक्ष महोदय : मुझे आपसे बड़ी सख्त
हमदर्दी है ।

श्री मनीराम बागड़ी : हम तो हमेशा
तैयार मिलते हैं ।

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY : The
Lok Sabha won both the matches on Satur-
day and Sunday. You should congratulate
us.... You are the Captain of the Team.

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. G.Y. Krishnan-
not here.

Mr. N.E. Horo also absent.

Mr Lakkappa.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE
(RAO BIRENDRA SINGH) : You can
straightaway take up 377.

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Lakkappa.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Central Council for Forestry Research
and Education

*407. †SHRI K. LAKKAPPA :

SHRI D.P. JADEJA : Will the
Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to
state :

(a) whether there is a proposal under
the consideration of Government to establish
a Central Council for Forestry Research and
Education in the country;

(b) if so, its aims and objectives and
by when it is likely to be established; and

(c) the extent to which the Council
would help the States in preserving the
forest wealth during the Seventh Plan
period ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI
YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) and (b)
A Council for Forestry Research and Educa-
tion is already in existence. The details are
given in the Resolution dated 29th May
1978 a copy of which is placed on the Table
of the Sabha. [Placed in Library. See LT-
8008/84]

(c) The main function of the Council
is coordination and promotion of forest re-
search and education in the country, which
by itself is aimed at preserving as well as
augmenting the country's forest wealth.

SHRI K.K. LAKKAPPA : So far as the
documentation on central research and edu-
cation system regarding forestry in the coun-
try is concerned, I would like to know what
the system is. The entire history of fore-
stry in the country is taking a very ugly
situation because wherever you see, there is
denuding of forests and forestry and forest
wealth is being not only destroyed but also
not being protected in various States in
accordance with the guidelines given by the
Government of India and also the delibera-
tions and conclusions of the Central Coun-
cil of Forest Research. I would like to
know the system by which an evaluation is
made on the basis of your documentation
and research forestry which is in existence
and whether such guidelines have not been
complied with by some States and if so,

how many States have complied with them and how many have not complied and what action is proposed on the basis of the recommendations and also the guidelines given by the Central Council of Forestry Research.

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : About research there are no guidelines issued to the State Governments because there are research organisations...

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA : I want a clear answer.

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : I am giving you a clear answer. The Forest Research Institute at Dehra Dun is also doing research work. Then there are various other Agricultural Universities which are doing research work and there are a number of research organisations under these various institutions at Dehra Dun. There are four Regional Centres also at Coimbatore, Bangalore, Jabalpur and Burnihat which are also doing research work in forestry.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA : I never asked about your constitution of research institute and work in various States and offices functioning. I want to know the guidelines given and the results in such research Institute and also education on the subject reaching the people of this country to improve forestry and the guidelines accepted by the State and also which are the States which have not complied with the guidelines.

Therefore, I would like to know about the overall situation in regard to the development and the result of the establishment of the Councils under the Government of India, specially, in your Ministry. This was my first question. My second supplementary will follow.

MR. SPEAKER : Do you mean to say that you have taken up in your own hands the working of these Councils ?

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA : You know that you yourself have made an observation on the floor of the House on how the forestry

in this country has developed and has improved.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH) : The hon. Member's first question was whether there is any proposal under the consideration of the Government to establish a Central Council for Forestry Research and Education in the country and the reply that we have given is that this Council was established in 1978 and the hon. Member does not even know whether it has been existing or not.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA : To what extent the guidelines issued by the Government have been complied with by the States ?

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY : The Minister is against it because the Council was created by the Janata Government.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH : Meetings of the Council were held from time to time. There is also a Central Board of Forestry. More or less, the area of functioning of these two boards overlaps. The forest is a concurrent subject. It is a fact that the forests belong to the State Governments. The Central Government does not own any forests. Therefore, any legislation or any guidelines has to be implemented by the State Governments only. We only help them to try and preserve our forest wealth. The Central Government's responsibility, of course, is mainly with regard to providing the central system of education and, for that, we have one of the best Institutes in Asia, that is, the Forest Research Institute in Dehra Dun. We have also decided in the last meeting of the Council for Forestry Research and Education that this Institute at Dehra Dun should be turned into a University. We have already approached the Ministry of Education for that purpose because the permission ultimately has to come from the University Grants Commission. We are also considering that there should be a better facility all over the country provided for forestry education and research and, there is a thinking going on at the Government level now that, on the lines of the Indian Council of

Agricultural Research, there should also be a Council for Forestry Research. Therefore, we accept our responsibility for providing facilities for education and in starting more forestry colleges. At present, the education in our Forestry Research Institute which has also the Indian College of Forestry and the Range Colleges is more or less only an in-service training that is provided. But, we have also tried to include other people sponsored by certain companies. We also give facilities to people from outside the country. Our research and education system is extensive. And Government of India is very keen that it should be established on a very firm and sound basis.

MR. SPEAKER : You can add that research is the research. It means a new quest, new knowledge, all the time.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA : My second supplementary is this. No doubt the hon. Minister has conceded that he is going to further improve and establish the Institute like the Indian Council of Agricultural Research Institute in the Forestry also. You are also aware that it is a fact that in various parts of the country, the forest being a State subject, village forestry is going on. The forest is withering away in various parts of the country including Karnataka. No steps are being taken by the State Governments in developing the village forestry even. As a result of that, there is an ecological imbalance in the country which results in a disastrous consequence.

In view of this, will the hon. Minister consider that the forests should be in the Concurrent List and see what steps should be taken by the Government to issue more central guidelines ?

MR. SPEAKER : Research is research. No guidelines. It is a quest for new findings.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA : I would like to know the results of that research and how far they have reached the people.

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : Sir, even though my senior colleague has already informed the hon. Member through you

that forest is under the Concurrent List yet he repeatedly asked when will we take it from the State List ? Again I will repeat for the information of the hon. Member that Forest is under the Concurrent List of the Constitution. Guidelines have been issued to the State Governments against felling of the trees. As regards social forestry in the villages for fuel wood as well as for maintaining ecological balance there are a number of programmes under the Government of India for the promotion of the social forestry. Under the 20-point programme also there is provision for social forestry.

SHRI D.K. NAIKAR : Sir, even though this subject is on the Concurrent List yet there are State Forests Acts for preservation of the area but it is not being preserved. It has led to bad effect in almost every State. Now, the hon. Minister has given a categorical answer that Research Institute had been established in 1978. Let us know what is the impact of preservation of forests so far as this Institute is concerned.

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : Sir there is consideration on the part of Government of India to establish a forest and training institute on the pattern of ICAR. So, at the present there is no such council. Forest research institute is very old. It is more than 100 years old.

SHRI SATYASADHAN CHAKRABORTY : Sir, in our country there are thousands of Advasis who depend on forest for the livelihood, So, while the Government of India try to preserve forest—which are equally important for human beings Have they taken in to account alternative avenues of earning their livelihood and their right to exploit the forests for their living are not curbed ? How is the Government trying to strike a balance between these two Purposes ?

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : Sir, the preservation of forest is very very important for the survival of the tribals also and in the new forest policy which is under preparation—we have already prepared the draft and being brought before the Cabinet we have taken special care of the people living in and in the surrounding areas of forests

particularly tribals. So far as the forest contractors are concerned Government has issued instructions to the State Governments to abolish the contract system so that tribals cannot be exploited.

So for as the privileges of tribals are concerned for collection of minor forest produce, I have already informed the hon. Member that care will be taken in the new forest policy.

Assistance for Rejuvenation of Cash Crops in Kerala

*408, SHRI M. M. LAWRENCE : Will Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) : whether Government of Kerala have sought an assistance of Rs. 603 crores from Central Government Towards rejuvenation of cash crops, and

(b) if so, the action Government have taken on that request and the details there of ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) The Government of Kerala have submitted a memorandum for assistance of Rs. 603 crores which include components besides rejuvenation and also crops other than cash crops. The assistance has been sought to cover a period extending to five years.

(b) : The following steps have been taken by the Government :

1. Advance plan assistance to the extent of Rs. 262 lakhs was given for input subsidies with flexibility and it can be used for plantation crops also.
2. Coconut has been included as an oil-seed crop for the purpose of supply of minikits of seeds and fertilisers to help the coconut growers in Kerala during 1983-84.
3. Assistance at the rate of Rs.50,000/ per block provided by Government of India for fruits and fuel

plantations has been extended to coconut also.

4. An additional amount of Rs 49 lakhs has been provided for development of coconut through the coconut Development Board for removal of root wilt affected palms and supply of coconut seedlings.
5. One scheme of "Loan-cum-subsidy for replantation of Cardamom" has been approved for implementation by the Cardamom Board for Rs. 272.50 lakh towards cash subsidy and Rs. 126.75 lakh towards interest subsidy over a period of 7 years. Government has also approved one scheme of Cardamom-Board for producing Cardamom seedlings in polythene bags involving expenditure of Rs. 780 lakh for 1983-84.
6. The Coffee Board's proposal for modification of "Crop Hypothecation loan scheme" involving an outlay of Rs. 2.60 crore has been approved by the Government in view of drought situation.

SHRI M.M. LAWRENCE : Kerala State is mainly producing cash crops. Because of the serious drought of last year, about 50% of the coconut trees have dried up. The yield of the rest of the trees has come down very low. For the replantation of the coconut trees the cost involved is very high But only a meagre amount has been sanctioned by the Government. The request by the State Government was for Rs. 603 crores. This is a request not only for coconut trees but for cardamom, pepper, jinger grass etc. All these plants have dried up because of the seriousness of the drought. But in his reply the Minister has stated :

"Advance plan assistance to the extent of Rs. 262 lakhs was given for input subsidies with flexibility and it can be used for plantation crops also."

I can understand the hon. Minister reply Sir, there is a saying in Kerala : One asks,