

details of the allocation, If you want I can narrate all the schemes.

PROF P. J. KURIEN : On 23rd July you have answered a similar question in this House and a copy of that is with me. So, let us not argue on that. Has Kerala Government submitted any special schemes for the increase of coconut production? To my knowledge they have submitted two schemes—one, comprehensive coconut development programme submitted for 50 per cent central subsidy and two, a package programme for 50 per cent central subsidy which you had sanctioned upto 1982-83. Are you aware that these two schemes are pending with you for sanction? If so, what is the delay? Will you consider it favourably?

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : I said that there is a centrally sponsored schemes under which Rs. 45.41 lakhs have been allocated for the current year.

SHRI A. K. BALAN : Because of the spreading virus disease coconut trees are being cut down and new one replanted on a large scale. But the amount granted for removal of old trees and re-plantation of new trees is very meagre. Has the Kerala Government made any request in this regard? If so, what is the reaction of the Government?

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : I have already replied to the hon. Member in reply to a previous supplementary that the amount also is allocated for that scheme.

Forest Land Submerged by Irrigation Projects

*212, **SHRI A. K. ROY :** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have any estimate of forest land submerged by different irrigation projects in the country so far ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) whether there are any guidelines in this matter to save forest land ; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) and (b) About 0,505 million hectares of forest land have been affected by irrigation and hydel projects in the country since 1950-51. A Statement giving state-wise figures is laid on the table of the House.

(c) and (d) Under the provisions of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, de-reservation and diversion of forest land to non-forest purposes is not permissible without the prior approval of the Central Government. The rules framed under the Act give the procedure for submission of proposals by the State Governments. A gist of the guidelines issued by the Central Government in relation to the aforesaid Act and Rules is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

State-Wise Forest Area Lost for Irrigation and Hydel Project During the Period From 1951-52 to 1983-84

(In '000 hectares)

State/Union Territory	Area
1	2
1. Andhra Pradesh	35.9
2. Assam	19.7
3. Bihar	1.8

Statement

1	2
n	
4. Gujarat	37.6
5. Haryana	—
6. Himachal Pradesh	7.7
7. Jammu & Kashmir	.1
8. Karnataka	84.9
9. Kerala	7.8
10. Madhya Pradesh	76.1
11. Maharashtra	13.1
12. Manipur	—
13. Meghalaya	—
14. Nagaland	—
15. Orissa	49.5
16. Punjab	—
17. Rajasthan	14.5
18. Sikkim	—
19. Tamil Nadu	48.3
20. Tripura	7.9
21. Uttar Pradesh	98.6
22. West Bengal	1.8
23. A & N Islands	—
24. Arunachal Pradesh	—
25. Chandigarh	—
26. Dadra & Nagar Haveli	—
27. Delhi	—
28. Goa, Daman & Diu	—
29. Mizoram	—
30. Lakshadweep	—
31. Pondicherry	—
TOTAL:	505.30

A gist of the guidelines issued by the Central Government from time to time is given below :

1. A brief note giving essential details of the project for which forest land is required is should be furnished as per item No. 1. of the proforma (attached) prescribed under the Forest (Conservation) Rules 1981. This should include (a) cost and outlay (b) justification for locating the project in the forest areas giving alternatives that were examined and reasons for their rejection (c) financial and social benefits (d) total population benefited (e) employment generated etc. Full land use plan of the area required should be attached if land is required for more than one purpose. The building plan should invariably be attached, if the area is required for construction purpose.
2. Adverse recommendations of subordinate officers in the proforma or in the documents attached with the proforma should be invariably commented upon by the CCF. Similarly, adverse remarks of CCF should be commented upon by the State Government so that it may be clear that a conscious decision has been taken in the case.
3. All hydel projects and major irrigation projects require clearance from the Department of Environment before any proposal for release of forest land for any such project is cleared under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. Irrigation projects having command area of above 10,000 hectares are called 'Major Projects'. Therefore, all Hydel Projects

and Major Irrigation Projects should be first got cleared from the Department of Environment before seeking approval of the Central Government under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

4. Area length, breadth and other measurements should be given in metric units and various units like acre, bigha, kanal, muthi, yard etc. are not used. All measurement must be given in metric units.
5. A map showing location of the area to be disforested viz. the boundary of the surrounding forest block is an essential requirement. If maps on 1:50,000 scale are not available, maps may be submitted on 1" = 1 mile or 1" = 4 miles or any other suitable scale according to the size of the area demanded. If the area is too small, an index map may be submitted showing forest boundaries and a location map on a larger scale showing land use of the area required.
6. Species-wise and dia-meter class-wise list of trees to be felled is an essential requirement for a meaningful appraisal of the proposal. It has been represented that in larger areas this takes lot of time. It has, therefore, been decided that total enumeration may be carried out only upto 10,0 ha. For larger areas specieswise and diameter-classwise list may be computed either from the working plans or by standard sampling methods. Further, this information may be given only for the area asked for in item 3 of the proforma and not for various levels in the case of irrigation projects which can be estimated proportionately.

7. Proposals for dereservation of reserved forests should be acit only in exceptional cases.

Irrigation and Hydel Projects

8. When the forest land is required for irrigation and hydel projects, the following details are necessary :
 - (a) Total catchment area
 - (b) Total command area
 - (c) High Flood Level
 - (d) Full Reservoir Level
 - (e) Minimum Drawal level
 - (f) Height of the Dam
 - (g) Total catchment area of the Dam (in hectares) and its break-up -Forest Land ; cultivated tand ; and others.
 - (h) Details as per item (g) above for the area coming under submergence.
 - (i) Total number of families and population affected.
 - (j) Proposals for the rehabilitation of the affected persons.
 - (k) Full land use plan for area required outside snbmergence i. e/ building, roads and other ancillary facilities.
9. It has been observed that water hardly stands all the year round even upto FRL. Trees can definitely stand water for one to three months, and therefore, submergence should be given for forest areas involved :
 - (i) Area of submergence at HFL (High Flood Level)

- (ii) Area of submergence at FRL (Full Reservoir Level)
- (iii) Area of submergence 2 m below FRL
- (iv) Area of submergence at 4 m below FRL (for medium and major irrigation projects only)
- (v) Area of submergence at Minimum Drawl level (MDDL)

Proforma Prescribed Under the Forest (Cons) Rules, 1981

Submission of proposals by the State

•Governments and other authorities regarding dereservation of reserved forests or use of forest land for non-forest purpose.

1. Short narrative of the proposal and project/scheme for which the forest land is required with maps and sketches.
2. Location of the project/scheme.
 - (i) State/Union Territory.
 - (ii) District.
 - (iii) Forest Division, Forest Block, Compartment, etc.
3. Total land required for the project/scheme alongwith its existing land use.
4. Details for forest land involved :—
 - (i) legal status of forests (namely reserved, unclassified, etc.)
 - (ii) the details of flora existing in the area including the density of vegetation :

- (iii) topography of the area indicating gradient, aspect, altitude etc ;
 - (iv) its vulnerability to erosion, whether it forms a part of a seriously eroded area or not ;
 - (v) whether it forms a part of national park, wildlife sanctuary, nature reserve, biosphere reserve etc., if so, details of the area involved ;
 - (vi) rare/endangered species of flora and fauna found in the area ;
 - (vii) whether it is a habitat for migrating fauna or forms a breeding ground for them ; and
 - (viii) any other feature of the area relevant to the proposal.
5. If the project for which forest land is required involves displacement of people or requires raw material from any forest area, the details of proposals for their rehabilitation and procurement of raw material, respectively should be furnished.
 6. Proposed steps to be taken to compensate for the loss of the forest area, the vegetation and wildlife.
 7. Detailed opinion of the Chief Conservator of Forests/Head of the Forest Department concerned covering the following aspects, namely :—
 - (i) out-turn to timber, fuelwood and other forest produce from the forest land involved ;

- (ii) whether the district is self-sufficient in timber and fuelwood ; and
- (iii) the effect of the proposal on, —
- (a) Fuelwood supply to rural population
- (b) economy and livelihood of the tribals and backward communities.
- (iv) specific recommendations of the Chief Conservator of forests/Head of the Forest Department for acceptance or otherwise of the proposal with reasons thereof.

Certified that all other alternatives for the purpose have been explored and the demand for the required area is the minimum demand for forest land.

Signature of the authorised officers of the State Govt./Authority,

N. B. While furnishing details of flora and fauna, the species should be described by their scientific names.

SHRI A.K. ROY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, even after providing a voluminous statement, what has been said is an under-statement. Trees cannot speak and wild life cannot collect at the Boat Club and demonstrate or break Sec 144. That is why the Irrigation Department have decided to construct the irrigation projects only in the dense forests. Till this day, 43 lakh hectares of forest land has been destroyed and out of that five lakh hectares are claimed to have been destroyed by the Irrigation Department. Forests are the lungs through which the nature respire. I would like to know, firstly whether the hon. Minister is sure about the figures he has provided ?

Out of the 31 State and Union Territories, your figures show that for as many as 15 States and Union Territories you do not have any information and the Forest Survey of India could conduct the survey of only one-tenth of the forests of the country. So, my first question is whether you are sure that there has been no deforestation by the Irrigation Department in the fifteen States and Union Territories in respect of which you could not produce the information? The second point is whether even after the enactment of your Forest Conservation Act, any land has been used or misused by the Irrigation Department for any non-forest purpose? These two questions I am putting first.

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : Sir, the Forest Conservation Act, 1980 was enacted with the intention that the indiscriminate felling of the trees can be prevented. Every case, whether it is for irrigation or for construction or for any other purpose, has to be referred to the Government of India and only after due examination, the Government of India gives permission. We are very strict in giving the permission. The case is first screened by the Department of Environment then there is a Committee which also screens and then finally we look into it. If it is for a very-very essential purpose, then only we are giving the permission after assessing it.

The other question which the hon. Member wanted to know is about the violation of the Act. Yes, there are certain States which have violated the Act and which have cleared the forests for certain projects before obtaining the permission of the Government of India.

SHRI A.K. ROY : In our part of Bihar, in Ranchi District the Forest Department has filed a criminal case against the Irrigation Department and the whole case has now gone to the Patna High Court. So, this type of things are taking place. I would like

to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to the two articles. One of these has been published in the *Economic and Political Weekly* of first June under the caption 'Development or Destruction'. This article is regarding the Narmada Valley Project which is one of the very big projects you are going to have. There is another article in *The Times of India* of January by the Director of Social Forestry, UP Government. According to the information provided in these articles, in the Narmada Valley Project alone 3.5 lakh hectares of forest land would be submerged. In the Koel Karo project in Ranchi district of Bihar, 1,200 acres of forest land will be submerged, in addition to the destruction of wild life and rare flora and fauna. I want a categorical assurance from the Minister that the Department will take steps so that these forest lands and the wild life are not affected, disturbing the ecological balance. If it is not possible, will some alternative arrangement be made to restore those areas? Secondly, you have stated that 5 lakh hectares of forest land has been destroyed. Have you got any time-bound programme to compensate that forest area?

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : We have a programme of afforestation and there is a massive programme of social forestry, which is taken up by the Government of India, through the State Governments, all over the country. There is World Bank assistance to it. The afforestation programme is going on in almost all the States. We have identified 157 districts, which are deficit of fuel. A massive programme is taken up in those areas for the plantation of firewood trees. What was the other question?

SHRI A K ROY : I high-lighted two major projects.

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : So far as major irrigation projects are concerned, we take care, and we will take care, that the minimum of trees are felled and, wherever it is possible,

we request the State Governments to put the project in alternative sites or to compensate for the forests by planting the number of trees which are felled by them for that project.

SHRI MADHAVRAC SCINDIA : The Forest Conservation Act was a very important Act, keeping in mind the very rapid elimination of forest cover in our country, which is going to pose a very serious hazard in future. But actually the problem is not really from the erosion caused to the forest cover by development projects, but it is really by the Departments in the State Governments, which come under the Conservator of Forests. It is a total misnomer; he should be called the Destroyer of Forests, not the Conservator of Forests, because the forest cover is being destroyed mainly because of the indiscriminate exploitation by the State Governments, through the so-called Conservator of Forests. I feel there should be a stricter control over all these things. However, this question. There are hundreds of acres, rather thousands of acres, where not a single tree stands and there is no hope of replantation. Yet it comes under the label of forest land. If a re-appraisal is made and another survey is done of all the forest areas in the country and such areas are eliminated from the label forest lands, they will not come in the way of developmental projects. Therefore, is the Central Government thinking of ordering another survey, a new survey, of the forest areas?

Secondly, I would request the Minister to ensure expeditious disposal of applications for permission to establish development projects. There is a dam in my constituency, of which the foundation was laid in 1980. The Agriculture Ministry told us to go ahead and that permission would follow. Now this is 1984; the dam is complete, the canals systems are complete. So, the final permission was sought. After the entire dam is complete and only permission is required to release the water into the canal, we have received

a communion from the Agriculture Ministry, stating that they are rejecting our proposal. Sir, they have rejected this proposal after crores of rupees have been spent on it. This shows there is total lack of coordination. I would request the Hon. Minister to see if some expeditious method can be found to dispose of such applications.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH) : Sir, I cannot agree with the suggestion of the hon. Member that the degraded forest land should be taken out from the area under forests. The very purpose of the conservation of forests, and the Act that this Parliament has passed, is not only to increase the area under forests, but at least to retain the area which is already under the Forest Department. We want to regenerate forests which have been degraded. Therefore, to agree to the suggestion of the Hon. Member would mean that the already small area, which is only about 22 per cent of our total land area that is under forest to thirty per cent. That is our plan.

The other part of the question of the hon. Member...

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Sir, I am talking of the forest land which has no forest.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH : But even that land we want to bring under forest cover. That is the purpose. We do not want any forest area to be diverted for any other purpose, even so cultivation.

Sir, he has mentioned a specific project. As my colleague has earlier stated that if there is a violation of the law, we have to impose some sort of discipline. If a State Government has taken action against the law of the Parliament, then...

SHRI CHITTA BASU : Why was it not pointed out earlier ?

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH : The Prime Minister herself has written to some of the Chief Ministers. I have also often been trying to persuade them not to violate the law, but when there is a very glaring example of violation by the State Government or its officers...

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Sir, even senior Officers of the Agriculture Ministry were present at the laying of the foundation Stone.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH : Well whatever it is, the presence of a Member of the Ministry cannot bypass the law. Therefore, Sir, wherever proposals come, if it is absolutely essential that the development project should come into being, we try to relax our rules also. At the cost of farmers' welfare, at the cost of very important irrigation projects, particularly for backward areas and tribal areas, we do not want to enforce the law very. Development projects also have to be approved. But where we that the State Governments are doing something which could have been avoided there we have to take a strong stand.

अध्यक्ष महोदय : इस का क्या बन्दोबस्त होगा ? क्या उसको तोड़ना पड़ेगा ?

SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY : Sir, in Andhra Pradesh over 90 lakh acres of land has been submerged under these projects and many trees are being cut. The Chief Minister of the State does not know the importance of the trees. He goes on condemning the Central Government saying, even for cutting of trees has he to take permission of the Central Government ? Sir, I would like to know whether this Ministry is going to educate such Chief Ministers, If so, whether the Hon. Minister is going to appoint any teachers ? If so, can he consider appointing me as a teacher for the purpose ?

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Next question.

STC to Buy Sugar from World Market

*213. SHRI NARAYAN CHAUBEY : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the State Trading Corporation have a proposal to buy three lakh tonnes of sugar from the world market ;

(b) if so, the reasons for the same ;

(c) the names of the countries which are supplying sugar to India indicating the price thereof ; and

(d) whether the said import will adversely affect the production of sugar inside the country ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (Dr. M.S. Sanjeevi Rao) ; (a) State Trading Corporation on behalf of the Government have finalised contracts for the import of about 3.54 lakh tonnes of sugar for shipment by the sellers upto October, 1984.

(b) Although there has been sufficient stock of sugar to meet the requirement during the current season 1983-84, the import of sugar has been made to augment the supplies during the initial period of the next sugar season 1984-85 when a number of important festivals also fall.

(c) The purchases have been made from International Traders. Therefore, the country-wise particulars are not know. The cost per tonne varies depending on the months of delivery. However, the average price comes to about US\$ 190 per tonne C & FFO.

(d) No, Sir. On the other hand, the import of sugar would increase the availability and help keep the prices in open market at reasonable levels.

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Chaubey, the same question has already been dealt with in this case only last week.

SHRI NARAYAN CHAUBEY : It has not come up.

SHRI SATYASADHAN CHAKRABORTY ; Since you have admitted it, he has a right to ask the Supplementary.

MR. SPEAKER : I am only telling him. If he wants to ask for the second time, it will be a repetition of the same thing. If Mr. Chaubey likes it, I won't stop him.

SHRI NARAYAN CHAUBEY ; All right. I am putting a very small question. Sir, we are importing sugar as well as exporting sugar. I would like to know what is the amount in rupees that we will have to spend in the matter of import and what was the amount of sugar we exported in 1982-83 and 1983-84, what was the profit and what was the loss in the matter of export.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI BHAGWAT JHA ARAN) : Sir, as we have said in the main part of the question, we are importing 3.54 lakh tonnes of sugar. We have given the average price which is US \$ 190 per tonne C & FFO. We cannot, at this moment, give the exact figure, but this is what we have given—the average per tonne, and we have contracted 3.54 lakh tonnes of sugar. This has been done as a measure of abundant precaution against some of the persons trying to hoard because our carry-over today in gros terms is 46.87 lakh tonnes, we have produced 59 lakh tonnes, our internal consumption is about 78 lakh tonnes. Our commitment for export up till now is 3.54 lakh