

relating to modernisation of office equipments in courts and allocation of more funds to the judiciary, improvement in day to day working of the courts, etc. These recommendations have been forwarded to all concerned such as State Governments, the Central Ministeries and the High Courts.

Coffee Board Depots in Bangalore

1471. SHRI H.S. SRIKANTIAH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Sale Depots of Coffee Board in Bangalore;

(b) whether coffee seeds are not available in these Sale Depots for most of the time; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to ensure regular supply of coffee seeds to these and other depots in the country?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SHANTILAL PURUSHOTTAM DAS PATEL): (a) Coffee Board has five Coffee Depots, two India Coffee Hoses and two Mobile Coffee Vans in Bangalore.

(b) and (c). Coffee seeds are available in these Coffee Depots most of the time. The Marketing Department of the Coffee Board has allotted a total of 3000 MT of coffee at Minimum Release Price for the period from January to December, 1990 for promotional sales through the Board's Depots. Out of this a quantity of 2129 MT was made available. The retail price of coffee in the Board's Depots were significantly lower than the local market rates. Consequently, demand for coffee at these Depots shot up both from genuine and pseudo consumers. Resultantly, the stocks in the Depots got exhausted faster than expected. The recent diesel shortages

has also affected timely movement of coffee from the Curing Houses to the Depots. However, all efforts are made to make available satisfactory quantities of coffee to continue sales.

Recommendations of Jaswant Singh Commission

1472. SHRI L.K. ADVANI:
SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the recommendations made by the Jaswant Singh Commission about opening of new benches of High Courts and their sites in various States and when were these made to the Government;

(b) whether the Union Government referred these recommendations to the State Governments for their comments;

(c) if so, whether the comments of State Governments have been received and the details thereof; and

(d) the decision taken by the Union Government?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY): (a) In its report submitted to the Central Government on 30.4.85, the Jaswant Singh Commission recommended establishment of Benches of the High Courts of Allahabad, Madhya Pradesh and Madras at Agra, Raipur and Madurai respectively. The Commission *inter-alia* made recommendations on the general question of having Benches of the High Courts at places away from their principal seats and board principles and criteria to be followed in regard thereto.

(b) The specific recommendations of Commission for establishment of Benches of the High Courts of Allahabad, Madhya Pradesh and Madras were referred to the Governments of Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Tamil Nadu respectively in October, 1986 for their views and comments, in consultation with the Chief Justices of the respective High Courts. The Report of the Commission on the general question of having Benches of the High Courts, was sent to the Government of Karnataka in October, 1986, for their views and comments, on their earlier proposal for establishment of a Bench of the Karnataka High Court at Hubli-Dharwar, in the light of the recommendations of the Commission. The report on the general question was also sent to all the State for their information and guidance on 11.9.87

(c) Definite views, specific/complete proposals have not been received from the Governments of Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka.

(d) No decision can be taken by the Central Government without specific/complete proposals from the concerned State Governments.

[*Translation*]

Effect of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 on Tribals

1473. SHRI CHANDUBHAI DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of tribals in the country are facing difficulties due to Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980;

(b) whether Government propose to make amendments in this Act;

(c) if so, when and the nature of amendments likely to be made; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) No, Sir. Deforestation had been taking place on a large scale in the country. With a view to checking further deforestation, the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 was made effective from 25th October, 1980. The Act made the prior approval of the Central Government necessary for deforestation of Reserved Forest and for use of forest land for non-forest purpose through application of this Act.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d). Do not arise.

[*English*]

Killing of Elephants in Rajaji National Park

1474. SHRI MANDHATA SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether several elephants were killed in Rajaji National Park, Garhwal in Uttar Pradesh in the first half of 1990;

(b) whether illegal sale of ivory is also being practised against the law of the land; and

(c) if so, what action is being taken against the guilty persons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) to (c). Information is being collected and would be placed on the Table of the House.