

SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA: This information was not collected in connection with this. But earlier when the Chipco workers had gone on strike, we had gone into this matter. The contractors have been refused any work in that area and no contractor was allocated the work of felling the trees.

DR. VASANT KUMAR PANDIT: I would like to know whether the Government has any scheme to have reservation of forests in every State, to have "reserved forests" which could not be touched at all, and whether the Government also have suggested to the States to reserve forests which would be useful for both stopping silt and for preservation of forest wealth in the country, particularly in regard to the Himalayan forests.

SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA: Forestry is a State subject. We have been advising the State Government against denudation of forests. We have been telling them that they should have more forests rather than denude the already existing forests.

SHRI SARAT KAR: Even if it is a State subject, I would like to know whether the Minister is aware that in every State, in the whole country itself, the policy is such that the Revenue Department is clearing forests to give land to the landless people and the Forest Department is making efforts for afforestation. Such a contradiction should not continue.

MR. SPEAKER: It is a suggestion.

SHRI A. R. BADRI NARAYAN: Is the protection afforded to forests confined to Himalayan forests or is it extended to all forests in the entire country?

MR. SPEAKER: Including western ghats.

SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA: We are writing to all the State Governments to conserve the forests, at least those which are reserve forests.

MR. SPEAKER: I am sorry Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTION
Drinking Water Scarcity in Dakshin-puri, Delhi

***367. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN:** Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING AND SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether residents of Dakshin-puri J. J. Colony, Delhi, have regularly been facing drinking water scarcity.

(b) whether supply of drinking water is only for an hour in the morning and so in the evening and as a result of this people daily fight in the colony and to this effect some complaints have been lodged with the police as well as authorities concerned, and

(c) if so, what steps have Government so far taken to provide adequate drinking water to the people in the colony?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING AND SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION (SHRI SIKANDAR BAKHT): (a) to (c). Whenever there is paucity of drinking water, there is always some trouble at the public hydrants. The situation in Dakshin-puri is no different. One more tube well is being provided there to augment the supply.

Time Taken for Transmission of Telegrams

***370. SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT:** Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that maximum time is taken at present for the transmission of telegrams for the longest and shortest distance in the country particularly in rural areas;

(b) whether Government propose to reduce the time taken in the transmission and delivery of telegrams in various parts of the country; and

(c) whether Government propose to introduce the system of indication of