

**SHRI BHAJAN LAL :** We shall certainly look into it and write about it to the State Governments. The Central Government would also keep a watch over it. We would make all efforts to ensure that forests are protected, because it would protect the environment of the country as well.

**SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, the economic factor is also responsible for the denudation of the forests. Are the Government considering some alternative programme on the lines of IRDP and other poverty alleviation programmes in order to stop the felling of trees ?

**SHRI BHAJAN LAL :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, the 12th item in the 20 Point Programme of Shrimati Indira Gandhi calls for afforestation. Rs. 40 crores were spent on it per annum at that time and in the Fifth Five Year Plan, Rs. 200 crores were spent and in the Seventh Five Year Plan, approximately a sum of Rs. 2550 crores has been earmarked for this purpose, so that maximum trees could be planted.

So far as felling of trees is concerned, permission is granted only in cases of certain projects, which entail construction of dams and power stations which are in the interest of the poor farmers and the nation. But permission for felling of trees is given in very rare cases, and is given after careful consideration, and a condition is put on the concerned State Government that afforestation will be done in double the area required for the project so that forests are conserved to the maximum extent.

[*English*]

#### **Suitability of New Zealand Afforestation Methods for India**

\*428. **SHRI I. RAMA RAI :** Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state ;

(a) whether afforestation methods adopted in New Zealand are considered suitable to Indian conditions; and

(b) if so, whether his Ministry have

taken any steps to try those methods in India ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI) :** (a) and (b). In view of the difference in agro-climatic conditions as well as different forest management practices followed in the two countries, afforestation methods adopted in New Zealand are not considered entirely suitable to Indian conditions.

**SHRI I. RAMA RAI :** After and during the visit of our Prime Minister to New Zealand and to the Forest Research Institute at Rotorua, we were made to understand that forest management and techniques of afforestation adopted in that country have invaluable lessons for India and, possible areas of cooperation can be opened up in this area. Even China made use of the New Zealand technique for afforestation. At present, a specie called Radiata pine is being encouraged in New Zealand and it is prospering well in New Zealand and it is being imported from California.

It is natural for a country like India to think of importing some species which will help and which will have multiple uses such as fodder, fuel and small timber and other uses for the country.

Will the Government think of any such species for afforestation in our country as is being done in New Zealand ? Will the Government think of importing some other species also from countries all over the world which will be suitable for our country ? Does the Government have any idea of that plan in the near future ?

**SHRI Z.R. ANSARI :** It is true that as directed by our Prime Minister, the Secretary, Environment and Forests, met Mr. Mike Moore, Minister for Overseas Trade and Marketing, New Zealand. During the discussions, three areas were identified for possible cooperation between New Zealand and India. After those discussions, the New Zealand Minister had promised to send a note indicating the way in which New Zealand would provide assistance to India. But no note containing information has come to us. As I have said in my

reply, the specie which is being planted in New Zealand is Radiata pine. I have already said that the present policy of the Government is that we do not encourage these exotic species. We have our own species which can do better. The agro-climatic conditions of New Zealand and India are quite different. We have mostly tropical and sub-tropical forests. This radiata pine is a specie which is most suitable for temperate climate. Secondly, the thrust of this afforestation programme...

MR. SPEAKER : He is asking about the methods...

SHRI Z.R. ANSARI : The thrust of the afforestation programme is also different. They are selecting those species by growing which they can export timber to other countries. They have surplus of timber. In our own country, we are facing a shortage of fuel wood; we are facing a shortage of fodder; we are facing a shortage of timber. Therefore, our thrust in the plantation programme is quite different from that of New Zealand. What they are doing is, they are just planting it and they are giving very good doses of fertilizers, top-dressing, irrigation. They are growing the forests as a crop and earning foreign exchange. In our country, we are growing, preserving and conserving forests for the poorer section of the society to provide fuel-wood to them to provide fodder to our cattle population and also to provide small timber to the poorer sections of the population. All these things are the different experiments which are being taken up in other countries are under study. We are proceeding very cautiously. Only those things will be encouraged in our afforestation programme which will be found suitable for Indian conditions.

SHRI I. RAMA RAI : Out of one million hectare plantation forests, half of which is state-owned and half of which is privately-owned do we have any programme of giving atleast fallow land which is not used for any cultivation purposes to the farmers on lease basis to raise forests for their use and if possible for their expert use also

SHRI Z.R. ANSARI : There is a programme of the Waste Land Develop-

ment Board to give waste land to the farmers, to those persons who want to raise plants under tree patta scheme. We do have that scheme.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he is aware that plantation forestry is also part of the afforestation programme in some other countries. It is possible to have plantation forestry in our waste land because if you have one acre of Cardamom plantation, you can plant 250 trees; if you have one acre of rubber plantation, you can have more than 150 to 200 trees. This can be encouraged in afforestation if that programme is included. I would like to know whether you have any such programme ?

SHRI Z.R. ANSARI : Programme for what ?

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Plantation forestry is to be included in the afforestation programme.

SHRI Z.R. ANSARI : As far as the present policy is concerned, the forestry programme, the afforestation programme is mainly meant for producing more fuel-wood, more fodder and more small timber for the poorer section of the society. We are not including tea plantation, coffee plantation and cardamoms plantation into the forestry programme.

[Translation]

SHRI BHAJAN LAL : This is a cash crop. You may talk about grapes tomorrow, you may talk about apples the day after, and about apricots the next day, but this is not covered under it.

[English]

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA : I congratulate the Government for taking up determined efforts for the afforestation programme. Whether the New Zealand system is suitable or not, but one thing, which I have noticed is that for protecting one plant, we are cutting another 25 to 50 tender plants for making fences. By that we are losing more number of trees. In view of that I want to know whether the

Minister will kindly tell us as to what is the system in New Zealand for protecting the plants and what is the system we are adopting and in case we are cutting more plants for protecting these, for making fences, whether he will ban cutting of trees for fencing purposes and provide alternative arrangements so that the afforestation programme can be fully successful.

[Translation]

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: Mr. Speaker, so far as fencing is concerned, you have also been a farmer and you must be knowing it.

MR. SPEAKER: I am still a farmer.

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: And you are 'Krishi Pandit' as well. You are aware that big trees are not felled for fencing purposes. Only those trees are cut for that purpose which are either thorny or only small bushes are cut. (Interruptions) I am also a farmer. I have worked in the fields and I have first hand experience of it whereas you may not have gone in the field at all. I am implying that in Rajasthan bushes have to be trimmed every month, otherwise it would not serve any purpose. You may be aware that the leaves are used as fodder for sheep, goats and camels. Such trees can be grown which do not have a long life. The farmers use only those species which are not of much use. If the farmer or the landlord thinks that certain variety of plant will be more expensive, then he would never allow it to be used for fencing purposes.

[English]

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: I invite the hon. Minister to come and see the position in our Union Territory and then take a decision.

[Translation]

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: We shall certainly look into this problem.

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA: Just now the hon. Minister has mentioned that only those trees should be planted which are suitable for the country. In the

past eucalyptus was a very popular variety, but there was a lot of controversy about it, and it has been reported in the press that planting of such trees may dry up the ground water. Has this controversy been resolved? I want to know whether according to the policy of the Government is it proper to plant eucalyptus trees in the country?

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Nawalji, you haven't told us about the qualities of 'Gyati'?

SHRI Z.R. ANSARI: Sir, hon. Shri Sharma has himself said that there is a controversy about it which shows that there is nothing conclusive about it. But the consensus reached among the scientists is that it is a controversial matter and the scientists themselves have differing opinions on it. It is evident that as compared to other species, the quick-growing varieties would require more water proportionately, but the question whether such trees destroy the fertility of the soil and whether such trees affect ground water resources adversely is still a controversial.

Secondly, the present policy of the Government is against monoculture of any sort, as was the case of eucalyptus planting in our afforestation programme. As per our present policy regarding afforestation, we are against monoculture and are in favour of mixed species. We are not in favour of planting any particular variety of trees. We have sent instructions to the State Governments that mixed varieties of trees should be grown, and the selection of the species should be made according to the local needs for timber, fuel wood, fodder etc. and according to the needs of the poorer sections of the society.

[English]

#### Licences to TV Manufacturers

\*429. SHRI SALEEM. I. SHERVANI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of licences/letter of intent issued to black and white and colour T.V. manufacturers, separately with manufacturing capacities;