

extensive soil erosion in North India. I can say about Dehradun district where trees are being cut in hundreds. There are a few minor schemes and these are being implemented, but are the Government considering any master plan to check felling of trees, to check soil erosion and to conserve land, because there is a great need of forests today ?

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : As I have said earlier, there are a number of schemes. We have 11 of them and if we consider them together, it will become a master plan.

[English]

This is all included in the programme. There are Drought Prone Area Programme, Desert Development Programme, Soil, Water and Tree Conservation Programme in the Himalayas, and Social Forestry. So, there are eleven schemes and these are the schemes which we are implementing for preventing the soil erosion.

Creation of gene sanctuaries in Sikkim

*287. **DR. T. KALPANA DEVI :**
DR. G. VIJAYA RAMA RAO :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Sikkim has a precious collection of 600 Orchid varieties and about 40 Rhododendron trees and shrubs which are fast disappearing;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to create gene sanctuaries in Sikkim for protecting natural resources; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) Sikkim has a collection of about 450 species of orchids. The area is rich in the Rhododendron species also but

the information on the exact number of species is not available. Some of the orchid and Rhododendron species are facing extinction unless conservation programmes are undertaken immediately.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The gene sanctuary for conservation of orchids has already been established by the Government of Sikkim at Deorali in Gangtok, while that for Rhododendron has been set up at Sinoba (Yunuthang).

DR. T. KALPANA DEVI : Some of the MPs have recently been to Sikkim and visited the orchid sanctuary. While it is a commendable effort, the fact is that Sikkim has very limited resources—both financial and technical. Therefore, I would like to know from the Hon. Minister whether the Government have studied the present set up both for orchids and Rhododendrons and worked out a plan on the basis of the actual situation for protecting these as a National Resource and if so what are the actual plans for setting up gene sanctuaries for these two species of Himalayas.

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : I said that there are various schemes and the Government has set up sanctuaries also/for the development of orchids we are also developing some hybrid varieties of orchids and in regard to indigenous varieties which are facing extinction, we are taking precaution so that they could be preserved.

DR. T. KALPANA DEVI : I want to know whether it is correct that the ICAR has had a plan for gene sanctuaries since the last 15 years but this has largely remained on paper only including the plans for North East region gene sanctuary.

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : Gene Banks are the store-houses of germ plasm material of different varieties, species, types of plants collected over a period of time and preserved for future use. These plants are preserved either through their seed plant parts, tissues or pollen. These are vital for the genetic improvement of plants to develop new types and ultimately help increase the production.

The Indian Council of Agricultural Research is establishing Gene Banks for preserving seed plants materials of all types useful to Indian agriculture.

MR. SPEAKER : Dr. G. Vijaya Rama Rao...

Site and Service Plan

*288. SHRI CHITTA MAHATA : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the site-and-service plan has been introduced in all the States and Union Territories; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the results achieved so far ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH) : (a) and (b). Provision of Sites and Services is a component of Housing Scheme for Economically Weaker Sections. Housing being a State subject it is for the State Governments/U. T. Administrations to formulate and implement housing schemes as per their needs and plan priorities.

During the year 1985-86, there is a target for the provision of 1,51,161 units to EWS families. The achievement upto 30.9.85 is 44,967.

SHRI CHITTA MAHATA : The Problem of housing is acute in urban as well as rural areas. The housing requirement has increased from 2.9 million dwelling units from 1971 to 5.9 million units in 1985. Despite several steps taken by the Government for providing housing facilities to the Economically Weaker Sections under the Site-and-service plan there is still a lot of backlog. I would like to know from the Hon. Minister the names of the States and the Union Territories which have submitted schemes under the site-and-service plan for approval and financial assistance for constructing houses under this scheme in their States and Union Territories.

[Translation]

SHRI DALBIR SINGH : Sir, though it is a State subject, yet as the Hon. Member has said there are two types of schemes under the Site and Service Plan. The first scheme is for the people living in the urban areas. Earlier, in the Sixth Five Year Plan, we used to give assistance to the families whose monthly income was upto Rs. 350 treating them under E.W.S. Now, we have raised this income limit of a family to Rs. 700. During the Sixth Plan, such families used to be given an assistance up to Rs. 3,000, but this amount has been raised to Rs. 5,000 in the Seventh Five Year Plan. Similarly, the amount of Rs. 250 which used to be given to the landless workers for site development in the rural areas has since been raised to Rs. 500. These amounts have been increased to Rs. 500 and Rs. 2,000, respectively. So far as the names of the States from which the schemes have been received are concerned, our Ministry is taking up this matter with the Planning Department as also the concerned States and we also have proposals regarding their basic needs during the Seventh Plan.

[English]

SHRI CHITTA MAHATA : I would like to know from the Hon. Minister how much allocation has been made by the Central Government to the States in the Seventh Five Year Plan ?

[Translation]

SHRI DALBIR SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Hon. Member has asked about the Seventh Plan. We have a provision of Rs. 577 crores in the Seventh Plan out of which Rs. 36 crores is being given for Plan Development and Rs. 541 crores for assistance in Construction.

[English]

Setting up of T. V. relay station at Amalapuram, East Godavari District Andhra Pradesh

*289. SHRI A. J. V. B. MAHESWARA RAO : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state ;