

down to half of the total area. He says it is 22.7 million hectares. In U.P. it is not more than 4 to 5 per cent. Is that correct ?

SHRI Z. R. ANSARI : I am saying that 22.7 percent is the total forest area which has been shown. The forest cover shown by this satellite imagery is about 13 percent.

Denotified Communities and Nomadic Tribes

*248. SHRI UTTAM RATHOD : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there are denotified communities and nomadic tribes in most of the States ;

(b) whether Government have taken any census of these tribes ; and

(c) if so, what is their population, State-wise ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The Question does not arise.

SHRI UTTAM RATHOD : Government have, on several occasions, made it clear on the floor of the House that the list of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes will be revised. Accordingly, twice a Bill was introduced and it was referred to a Joint Committee. But the Bills lapsed as the Lok Sabha was dissolved. May I know whether the Government is still thinking of revising the list of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and if so, for that purpose, whether they will try to enumerate the nomadic tribes and the ex-criminal tribes ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (DR. RAJENDRA KUMARI BAJPAI) : Sir, Government is considering revising the list of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

We are going to put a comprehensive Bill before Parliament. It is only the Parliament which is competent to revise it. At that time we will see all aspects of it, whether they are *vimukht jatis*, who falls in the category of Tribes.

SHRI UTTAM RATHOD : What is the hitch in having a census ?

DR. RAJENDRA KUMARI BAJPAI : The question is not taking of any census because according to the Constitution caste and community-wise enumeration can be done only for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. In respect of others, no such enumeration is possible.

SHRI UTTAM RATHOD : The Minister says that these people cannot be enumerated. But when the Government intends to include them under either the Scheduled Castes or the Scheduled Tribes, what is the harm in doing it ? In this country we have been having yearly census of the born-free and roaming-free tigers and other wild life. How is it that we cannot have a census of these people, these nomadic people. We have schemes to rehabilitate criminals, but we do not have any scheme to rehabilitate these ex-criminal tribes. What is the reason ?

DR. RAJENDRA KUMARI BAJPAI : Tribes are not criminals.

[Translation]

SHRI NARSINH MAKWANA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the people belonging to high castes get concessions meant for Harijans and Scheduled Castes in Gujarat. The State Government has also written to you in this regard, but there has not been any improvement. Educated and well off people who do not belong to backward classes are availing of all facilities meant for the Harijans and Scheduled Crstes. I want to know as to what action the hon. Minister is taking in this regard ?

SHRIMATI RAJENDRA KUMARI BAJPAI : Similar complaints have also been received from other States as also from the people belonging to Scheduled Castes who

have been shown as Scheduled Tribes. The State Government have also filed similar complaints. The Central Government have considered it in detail and we propose to lay a comprehensive list before the Parliament soon.

[English]

DR. V. VENKATESH : From Karnataka some tribes have been recommended for inclusion in the list of Scheduled Tribes, and that is a community which has some historical background. They were wandering in forests. This community is called the Nayak community. They are also called beda, the hunting community, and also Valmiki. There is only discrepancy in the nomenclature, but they are almost equal in all respects. The Government of Karnataka has already sent this proposal, for approval, to the Government of India. But, so far, the Government of India has not taken any interest in this. Due to this there is a lot of trouble for those people who are actually in the forests. They want to come up in life, to have education and to be in the mainstream of India. But, so far, the Government of India has not taken any interest in this. I want to know why the Government is indulging in these delaying tactics. This is an important and vital matter. Why have the Government not taken it seriously ?

DR. RAJENDRA KUMARI BAJPAI : We are quite serious and we are taking all possible care to bring forward a comprehensive list before Parliament.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : The people who are working in the Assam tea garden areas are considered as Scheduled Castes in other parts of the country, but in Assam they are not being so treated. The Government of Assam and the Assam Pradesh Congress(I) have requested the Central Government to treat them as SC ; but there is no reaction. May I know what is the view of the Central Government about it ?

DR. RAJENDRA KUMARI BAJPAI : The Government of Assam has made them as OBC i. e., Other Backward classes and

they are treated in the State as OBC and facilities are given to them from the State. When we bring comprehensive list before the Parliament, we will see all aspects of it.

Delay in Completion of Central Projects

*249. SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY : Will the Minister of PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state :

(a) the number of central projects that have slipped by two years or more, the number of projects that have been delayed by less than two years and the names of projects that have slipped by 11 years, according to the monitoring of 183 Central projects under implementation undertaken by the Ministry ;

(b) the total amount of escalation in investment and costs of these projects as a consequence of this delay ; and

(c) the steps being taken to expedite their execution as per schedule ?

THE MINISTER OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHOUDHURY) : (a) to (c) A statement is given below.

Statement

(a) Of the projects being monitored by this Ministry 49 projects have been delayed by less than 2 years, 56 projects between 2—11 years and 3 projects namely Bokaro Steel Plant, Moonidih Coal project and Calcutta Underground (Dum Dum—Tollyganj) projects by 11 years or more from the original dates.

(b) The total costs of the 108 delayed projects as now anticipated comes to Rs. 43,154 crores as against an original amount of Rs. 24,803 crores. This increase is due to numerous reasons including delay in execution.

(c) The following steps are being taken to expedite the implementation of these projects,