

### Rearing of Forests in Tamil Nadu

247. SHRI TINDIVANAM G. VENK-  
ATRAMAN: Will the Minister of ENVIR-  
ONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to  
state:

(a) the number of forests reared in  
between 1990 to 1992 in Tamil Nadu;

(b) whether the valuable sandalwood  
trees are cut and removed by high officials  
in Government (Tamil Nadu) with the  
connivance of forest guards;

(c) whether the Central Government is  
giving loan to State Government to grow  
forests; and

(d) if so, what is the total amount paid  
to Tamil Nadu Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND  
FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH):

(a) Afforestation and tree planting are con-  
tinuing activities undertaken in the States,  
including Tamil Nadu, for the development  
of forest and degraded lands in the coun-  
try. During the years 1990-91 to 1992-93  
an area equivalent to 337505 hectares has  
been covered in Tamil Nadu under these  
activities.

(b) This Ministry has not received any  
specific complaint regarding the cutting  
and removal of sandalwood trees by Gov-  
ernment officials with the connivance of  
forest guards. However, during the year  
1991-92, the Tamil Nadu Government has  
seized 768.16 tonnes of sandalwood esti-  
mated at Rs. 1330 lakhs. In this connec-  
tion 128 persons have been arrested.

(c) The Central Government does not  
provide loans to State Governments for  
growing forests. However under the various  
schemes of the Ministries of Environment  
and Forests, Agriculture and Rural Deve-  
lopment, Central assistance is provided for  
afforestation and tree planting activities on  
an annual basis.

(d) In view of (c) above, question does  
not arise

### गरीब लोगों को वनभूमि का आवंटन

248. श्री महाश्वर सिंह : क्या पर्या-  
वरण और वन मंत्री यह बताने की  
कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि उन्होंने  
दिनांक 12 जून 1993 को हिमाचल  
प्रदेश के कुल्लू जिला स्थित मोहले में  
"इकोलॉजिकल सेन्टर" के शिलान्यास के  
अवसर पर वह घोषणा की थी कि  
कुल्लू जिले के जंगलों में भीतर की  
जमीन गरीब लोगों में आवंटित कर  
दी जाएगी और वर्ष 1980 से पहले  
से जिन लोगों का जिस भूमि पर कब्जा  
है उस जमीन को उन्हीं व्यक्तियों के  
नाम नियमित कर दिया जायेगा ; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो उसका ब्यौरा  
क्या है ?

पर्यावरण और वन मंत्रालय के  
राज्य मंत्री (श्री कमल नाथ) : (क)  
और (ख) कुल्लू जिले में इकोलॉजिकल  
सेन्टर के शिलान्यास के अवसर पर यह  
स्पष्ट किया गया था कि वन भूमि  
पर 25.10.1980 से पहले किए  
गए अधि कब्जों को नियमित करने के  
बारे में विचार किया जा सकता है बशर्ते  
कि मंत्रालय द्वारा इस संबंध में 18.9.  
1990 को जारी किए गए दिशा-निर्देशों  
के अनुसार कतिपय निर्धारित शर्तों को  
पूरा किया जाए और राज्य सरकार  
ऐसे प्रस्तावों को नियमित कराने के  
लिए भेजे।

### Steps to check destruction of Forests

249. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO:  
Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT  
AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any fresh initiatives are  
proposed by Government to tackle the  
destruction of forests in East and West  
Godavari districts of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons for ignoring this  
problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FOREST (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) I am in touch with Forest Minister of Andhra Pradesh on the subject of conservation of forests in Andhra Pradesh especially in East and West Godavari districts.

- (i) State Government has provided two mobile squads for protection of forest in the area.
- (ii) The Chief Conservator of Forest (Central) southern region is in touch with State Government to work out a long term strategy for conservation of forests.
- (iii) Benefit sharing arrangements are being made through joint forestry management principles to associate local communities with conservation of forests. The Central Government has provided financial assistance of Rs. 12.32 lakhs for this work in 1992-93.
- (iv) An integrated forestry project proposed by the Government to the World Bank has been appraised by the bank. Implementation of this project will ensure conservation of natural forest and development degraded areas.
- (v) A sum of Rs. 18.70 lakh has been provided to Government of Andhra Pradesh for protection of forest from biotic interference and fires in 1992-93.
- (e) Question does not arise.

#### Pollution of Rivers

250. SHRI S. AUSTIN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether pollution of rivers caused by pesticides and other such hazardous chemicals released from the factories and farms is being constantly monitored under the Natural Water Quality Monitoring Network;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(c) the action taken by Government to check such pollution?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) 27 locations in the Ganga are monitored for seven pesticides. The analytical data show highly fluctuating levels of pesticides concentrations and do not show any definite trends in spatial and temporal variations.

(c) Standards have been prescribed for pesticides in industrial discharge and industries are required to conform to these standards. The State Pollution Control Boards are monitoring the compliance of standards on a regular basis. Safe and judicious use of pesticides is encouraged through awareness programmes.

#### Tiger Census at Ranthambhore

251. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Tiger census at Ranthambhore has since been completed;

(b) if so, the number of tigers at Ranthambhore according to the available figures;

(c) the reasons for the reduction in the tiger population in spite of Project Tiger; and

(d) what steps are contemplated to ensure the increase in tiger population in the next few years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The approximate number of tigers in Ranthambhore, according to preliminary estimates of the State Government after May, 1993 census, is 28.

(c) and (d) The Project Tiger looks at the conservation of complete eco-system of