

State Governments are required to comply these stipulated safeguards.

(b) In accordance with the provisions of the detailed guidelines issued for regularisation of encroachments on forest land, formal approval for diversion of 1.03 lakh ha. and 1,367 ha. of forest land in Madhya Pradesh and Andaman and Nicobar Islands respectively have been accorded under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for regularisation of encroachments on forest land.

Siltation of Bharat River

4107. SHRI D. RAJAGOPAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Bharat River (Bharat Puzha) considered as the life-line of Kerala State is becoming a sandy desert due to high siltation on account of cutting of forests;

(b) if so, what action Government have taken or contemplate to take to prevent siltation and make the river safe;

(c) whether Government have received any scheme from the State Government of Kerala in this regard; and

(d) if so, what action has been taken thereon and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) The rate of siltation of Bharat river is high, but it is not on account of cutting of forests.

(b) and (c) The Government of Kerala have not sent any specific forestry scheme to prevent siltation of Bharat river.

(d) Question does not arise.

Extinction of Siberian Cranes

4108. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a press news-item captioned 'Crane import proves an exercise in vain as reported in the Indian Express dated 10th March, 1993;

(b) if so, the facts and details in this regard;

(c) whether due to negligence the Siberian cranes are facing extinction; and

(d) if so, the steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) The Government has seen the news report.

(b) An experiment was carried out to release regard Siberian Crane Chicks in the fast dwindling population of the Western flock of Siberian Cranes which winters in Bharatpur. The experiment has been carried out in collaboration with International Crane Foundation of USA and Ornithologists of Russia and Japan, in Keoladeo Ghana National Park, Bharatpur, during this year. The objectives of the experiment *inter alia* were to establish the migration route of these birds from India to Siberia, the exact breeding ground of this population in Siberia and to build up the dwindling stock of the flock. Two Siberian Crane chicks were brought from Russia. Before their import into the country they were subjected to full scale health checks in Russia. On arrival on 12-2-1993 these were taken to Bharatpur directly where arrangements for their separate quarantine were