

gas pipeline was signed one day after the Bombay incident happened. I was in Oman on that day and we signed the agreement one day after. So nothing will stop us. (*Interruptions*).

DR. JINENDRA KUMAR JAIN:
So you are proving my point...
(*interruptions*)...

*464. [The Questioner (Shri H. Hanumanthappa) was absent. For answer vide col..... infra]

Action Plan for the Himalayas

*465. DR. ISHWAR CHANDRA GUPTA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether action plan for Himalayas has been prepared;

(b) if so, the salient feature of the plan;

(c) by when it is likely to be implemented;

(d) the States likely to be covered under the plan; and

(e) whether with the implementation of the action plan activities of the on-going projects in the affected State would come to a halt?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) The Govind Ballabh Pant Institute of Himalayan Environment and Development a autonomous organisation of the Ministry of Environment & Forests has prepared an Action Plan for the Himalaya.

(b) A statement is laid on the table of the House. (*See below*).

(c) The Action Plan has been sent to all the concerned Government agencies, Institutions and the Universities in the Himalayan region to keep the identified priority areas in view while implementing the development activities.

(d) The Action Plan covers the Himalayan States viz. Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur, Meghalaya, Tripura, Mizoram and the Hill Districts of Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and Assam.

(e) The Action Plan is intended to strengthen the mechanism of ecologically sound economic development and not to negate the development activities.

Statement

The salient features of the action plan are given below:

—Geological instability interacting with a complex of problems manifest fragility to the Himalayan ecosystem.

—Data on problems like denudation, siltation, hydrological imbalances and floods suffer from the drawbacks, precision and the regional qualifications are found to be quite low.

—Positive points of traditional resource production and use system needs strengthening through science and technology inputs.

—The mountain trees are more productive than others, the existence of a rich tree germplasm must be recognised and realized for future research and development.

—All the partners in the development process should review their presently common role and change it in the direction of desirability.

—It is difficult for the people to come to terms with the ecological approach immediately until we change the educational pattern.

—Lack of hydrological information and technology for designing suitable intake structures and water harvesting and supply systems.

—Traditional systems conceived earlier as weak are now considered to represent an "Advance Sustainable Technology" in crop husbandary sector.

—Governmental effort should be strengthened to take up the task of land consolidation on priority.

—Legal provision of private ownership should not restrict land use for the benefit of people.

—Traditional systems should not be disrupted unless government interventions are found superior to the indigenous technologies.

—Cooperative marketing would be more useful for promoting trade in inaccessible areas of high hills.

—A long-term horticultural development plan should be prepared, incorporating a crop diversification programme.

—Conservation strategies must address to the needs of conservation for posterity but, at the same time, should not neglect the present needs of the people. Conservation of cultivated crops is a neglected subject.

—Educational institutions should be provided financial support for eco-regeneration activities involving students to infuse ethos of conservation.

—Tourism be declared an industry throughout the Himalayan region so that various benefits of establishing an industry in the industrially backward area can be reaped by those who may like to invest in this venture.

—Wild fruits traditionally used to supplement diets remain unexploited for their economic values. Technology for the extraction of their active component should be developed.

डा० ईश्वर चन्द्र गुप्ता : मैंने माननीय मंत्री महोदय से अपने प्रश्न के "ग" भाग में पूछा था कि हिमालय कार्य योजना कब तक लागू की जायेगी जिसका उत्तर मंत्री महोदय ने नहीं दिया। यह कहा कि कार्य योजना को हिमालय क्षेत्र की सभी सम्बन्धित सरकारी एजेंसियों, संस्थाओं और विश्व-विद्यालयों को भेज दिया गया है ताकि विकास गतिविधियों के कार्यान्वयन के समय अभिनिर्धारित प्राथमिकता वाले क्षेत्रों को ध्यान में रखा जा सके। जबकि मेरा प्रश्न था इसको कब लागू किया जायेगा। मंत्री जो यह बताने की कृपा करें।

SHRI KAMAL NATH: Sir, I have very categorically stated ... (Interruptions)

श्री प्रमोद महजान : हिन्दी में बोलिए ताकि पहाड़ी लोग समझ सकें।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please, the Minister is answering, listen to him.... (Interruptions)

SHRI KAMAL NATH: I am saying it for the benefit of the Chair.... (Interruptions) मैंने स्पष्ट रूप से अपने जवाब

में कहा है कि यह योजना केवल बनाई ही नहीं गई है इसको लागू भी कर दिया गया है। यह योजना कब बनाई गई, कैसे लागू की जा रही है, कब तक होगा, इसकी काफी मैं माननीय सदस्य को भेज दूंगा।

डा० ईश्वर चन्द्र गुप्ता : ये प्राथमिकता वाले क्षेत्र कौन से हैं कृपया इसे स्पष्ट करें?

श्री कमलनाथ : प्राथमिकता वाले क्षेत्र वे हैं जो हिमालय रेंज में आते हैं। दिल्ली तो आ नहीं सकती।

डा० ईश्वर चन्द्र गुप्ता : जब हिमालय रेंज में आने वाले क्षेत्र प्राथमिकता वाले हैं तो कार्य करने में क्यों देरी है?

श्री कमलनाथ : मैं माननीय सदस्य को बता दूँ कि अगर इसमें आंकड़े चाहते हैं तो मैं दे सकता हूँ। यह योजना पूरे हिमालय रेंज में आती है जिसमें 6 लाख स्केयर किलोमीटर का क्षेत्र है। ये 12 स्टेट्स हैं और वे जिले उन स्टेट्स, उन राज्यों में हैं जहाँ हिमालय क्षेत्र है, इनमें यह लागू होती है और 6 प्रतिशत हमारी आबादी का इन क्षेत्रों में लोग रहते हैं। इसका मतलब है कि 6 प्रतिशत, करीब 5 करोड़ लोग इन क्षेत्रों में रहते हैं। मैंने ये क्षेत्र अपने जवाब में, उत्तर में, दिये हैं। इनको मैं फिर से माननीय सदस्य के लिए दोहरा देता हूँ। यह है—जम्मू और काश्मीर, हिमाचल प्रदेश, उत्तर प्रदेश, सिक्किम, वेस्ट बंगाल आसाम, मणिपुर, नागालैण्ड, मेघालय, त्रिपुरा, अरुणाचल प्रदेश और मिजोरम।

SHRI K. K. VEERAPPAN: Mr. Chairman. Sir, I sought your permission to express my grievance concerning the Environment Minister. Some six months back, I raised an issue in the august House by way of a special mention regarding the large scale felling of the sandal wood trees in Tamil Nadu. But so far, I have not received any information or any reply from the concerned Ministry. I also wanted to put a question when question No. 462 was taken up but unfortunately, I did not get a chance. Sir, even the State Government is not taking action to curtail the felling of trees. I want to know as to what steps the Central Government is taking to prevent the felling of trees, particularly, the sandalwood trees in the Tamil Nadu forests.

SHRI KAMAL NATH: Sir, this question pertains to the Himalayan region. Unfortunately, the sandalwood trees do not grow there. Yet, I will answer the question.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have to strengthen the Western Ghats.

SHRI KAMAL NATH: The hon. Member has rightly expressed his concern about the illegal felling of sandal wood trees in Tamil Nadu. Sir

there has been some felling of sandalwood trees in Tamil Nadu. There is a study being done in this to find out as to what is the sustainable quantum of the harvesting of sandalwood trees which needs to be done for horticulture purposes. Sandalwood trees have a life of 100 to 120 years and if they are not cut, I am informed that they may get, in course of time, rotten and may turn black. Sir, there has also been pressure from some of the States to permit the export of sandalwood trees. A policy decision on this is yet to be taken. It is in the process of consideration. And once a policy decision is taken, I think it will amply clarify the situation to the hon. Member.

SHRI VISHVJIT P. SINGH: Mr. Vice-Chairman. Sir, I would quickly ask the Minister this. In his Action Plan, he has very clearly stated in the first norm, "Geological instability interacting with a complex of problems manifests fragility to the Himalayan ecosystem." I want to know in the fact of the first constituent which he has laid down, what is its effect on the Tehri Dam will be.

SHRI KAMAL NATH: Sir the Tehri Dam Project was cleared by the Ministry of Environment subject to certain conditions. Those conditions are to be fulfilled. Several meetings—even at the Prime Minister's level have been held on this. It has been very categorically... (Interruptions)

SHRI VISHVJIT P. SINGH: You have said about fragility...

SHRI KAMAL NATH: This dam was cleared several years ago. The Tehri Dam was cleared several years ago, with certain conditions and with certain safeguards. Those conditions and safeguards are to be met if this project is to go ahead.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Sukomal Sen... (*Interruptions*)

DR. NAUNIDHAN SINGH: I have a very important question to ask. I have been ignored throughout. I have been raising my hand on so many questions... (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI SUKOMAL: I want to know whether the Action Plan on Himalayas has been drawn up in collaboration with the Tourism Department because tourism is an important factor in the development of Himalayas. I want to know from the hon. Minister whether he is concerned with the promotion to tourism also.

SHRI KAMAL NATH: I have not heard his question. He may kindly repeat it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mrs. Sinha, do you want to ask a question? Only two sentences.

श्रीमती कमला सिंहा: महोदय, मैं मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहती हूँ कि हिमालय ऐक्शन प्लान जो मंत्री महोदय ने बनाया है उसमें बिहार के उत्तरी हिस्से को क्यों छोड़ दिया है? उत्तरी बिहार हिमालय की तराई में आता है। नेपाल में जो डिफरेंसेशन हो रहा है, हिमालय की तराई में जो डिफरेंसेशन है, उसके कारण वहाँ बहुत ही साइकिलक तरीके से ड्राउट और फ्लड आ रहे हैं। तो ऐसी स्थिति में मंत्री महोदय से इस को क्यों छोड़ा, यह मैं मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहती हूँ?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Arms Smuggled to Intensify Communal Violence

*464. SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to the news item which ap-

peared in the Statesman recently to the effect that the Centre fails to react to the specific intelligence reports outlining the plans to smuggle arms to intensify the communal violence in the country;

(b) what is the reaction of Government in regard thereto;

(c) whether Govt. have received the reports within a week of the Ayodhya incident on December 6, but still no action was taken by it;

(d) the steps taken by Government to stop arms smuggling into the country?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. B. CHAVAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Whenever any information is received about smuggling of arms, the State Governments and the other concerned agencies are alerted suitably.

Exploitation of Black Majority in South Africa

*466. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:

SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what steps have been taken by Government to bring the white minority Government in South Africa and the African National Congress representatives to the negotiating table to bring about a representative Government in that country and to end exploitation of the black-majority by way of practice of apartheid therein; and

(b) with what results?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHUR-