

RAJYA SABHA

Thursday, the 25th August, 1994
3rd Bhadra 1916 (Saka)

The House met at eleven of the clock.

Mr. Chairman in the Chair.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Allotment of Forest Land to people of Rural Areas

*441. SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have allotted forest land to people of rural areas of the country enabling them to have self-employment by planting fruit-bearing trees;

(b) if so, the details of areas allotted to rural people, State and Union Territory-wise during 1993 and upto June, 1994;

(c) whether Government propose to allot more forest land to rural- people providing them avenues of self-employment during remaining part of 1994 and during 1995;

(d) if so, the details thereof State and Union Territory-wise, and if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether Government also propose to take some more steps for further development of rural areas to provide avenues of self-employment; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) to (f) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) As per the provisions of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, no forest land can be allotted to any private person

even for afforestation without obtaining prior approval of the Central Government under the Act. No proposal for allotment of forest land to rural people for planting fruit-bearing trees for self-employment purposes has been received under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 from any State Government. No proposal for this purpose has been approved under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 so far.

(b) to (d) In view of the position explained above these questions do not arise.

(e) and (f) The Government is already having a large number of self-employment schemes under implementation through various Ministries including the Ministry of Rural Development. The Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), introduced on October 2, 1980 and gradually extended all over the country, is providing financial assistance to the rural poor for taking up various types of self-employment schemes. Development of Women and Child in Rural Areas (DWCRA) is also organising rural women for taking up individual as well as collective economic ventures through self-employment to generate additional income in the household sector. Training of Rural Youth for Self-employment (TRYSEM) is another scheme for providing technical inputs and vocational training to rural youth enabling them to take up self-employment ventures in the rural sector. The Prime Minister's Rojgar Yojna is another important landmark in the expansion of self-employment projects in rural areas providing the beneficiaries financial assistance. Recently, supply of improved tool-kits to rural artisans has also helped to enhance the scope of self-employment and to increase the productivity of traditional rural artisans. Even financial assistance under Jawahar Rojgar Yojna (JRY) has been made available to small and

marginal farmers for land development. Such development of land is expanding absorption of additional labour force and thus expanding the scope of the self-employment. A more scientific approach to develop drought prone areas and desert areas on watershed basis is being taken up as per the recommendations of the Hanumantha Rao Committee. These various programmes are constantly reviewed, re-designed and expanded.

SHRI K.M. KHAN: Sir, if there is a technical difficulty in allotment of forest land in accordance with the provisions of the Act, as mentioned in the statement laid on the Table of the House, I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether the Government would consider the allotment of *banjar* land available in certain States to provide agro-based employment to rural youths and whether it would be possible for the Government to consider the allotment of wasteland under the Wasteland Development Programme to rural youths for self-employment purposes?

SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR: Sir, so far as the forest land is concerned it is governed by the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. Under the Act, no fresh land could be allotted to private parties even for afforestation purposes without prior approval of the Government of India. No. proposal has been received and no proposal has been approved. So far as the wasteland is concerned, the National Wasteland Development Board, whose report is dependent on the Society for Promotion of Wasteland Development which was formed in 1984, has stated that out of the total land mass of 329 million hectares, wasteland constitutes 129.58 million hectares, including 85.88 million hectares of degraded State forest land and also degraded non-forest land of 93.94 million hectares. These lands are being distributed. So far as the major schemes of the National Wasteland Development Board are concerned, we have details of the lands in all the States. The practical difficulties arising out of

that are being sorted out by the State Governments. At the moment, we have got schemes like the Integrated Wasteland Development Project Scheme, Investment Promotion Scheme, Technology Development and Extension Scheme, Support to NCOs and VAS for Wasteland Development, Scheme for Promotional and Critical Support Premises and Wasteland Development Task-Force.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Khan, your second supplementary please.

SHRI K.M. KHAN: Sir, the hon. Minister has said that the Government has a scientific approach for the development of the area, that is to say, the deserts and wasteland.

Sir, there are deserts, there are drought prone areas in my State of Andhra Pradesh particularly in Telangana and Rayalaseema region. I would like to ask the Minister whether the Government has any special schemes to develop these drought prone areas in Telangana and Rayalaseema region and that are there certain instructions to nationalised banks and NABARD to assist the unemployed rural youth who would like to take up these lands and develop these for the purpose of self-employment of rural youth.

SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR: Sir, a number of schemes for self-employment under the Ministry of Rural Development are there. One of them is to make allotment of surplus wastelands to such persons who could use them for afforestation for food, fodder, fruit bearing, trees and other activities which will help them in creating employment for which certain incentives and subsidies are being provided. In addition, we have a number of schemes under the IRDP for the unemployed youth in rural areas. We have got a training programme under which training is being provided for the youth under TRYSEM and they are being given jobs when they are trained. I have got the figures of different States. In

total, where we have been able to provide employment we are providing. We have schemes for women and child development; also for their employment. We have got other schemes under the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana and also assured employment in which employment is being provided to unemployed people in the rural areas.

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Sir, during the Earth Summit at Rio, the Government of India opposed the stand of the developed countries to have a convention on the forest with the argument that control over the forest land is for the communities living around and in these areas. Now, I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether the Rural Development Ministry, in conjunction with the Environment and Forests Ministry, could devise any programme for generating self-employment of the youth who are living in these forest areas keeping in view the stand that has been taken by the Government of India vis-a-vis the Earth Summit.

SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR: Sir, the Government of India is governed by two parts. One is forest land which is guided by the Forest Conservation Act of 1980 and we have got certain regulations and normally land is not allotted to private people without the prior permission of the Government of India. But there have been schemes particularly in regard to a large portion of degraded lands and these are even part of the forest land or are under encroachment. As on 1.1.1983, the figure was 7,00,633 hectares. With the help of communities, State Governments made proposals to allot lands for useful purposes to the people. For the forest land under encroachment, there are proposals from the State Governments for regularisation of 2,47,292 hectares. Approval has been accorded for regularisation of 1,04,367 hectares. Approval in principle has also been accorded with certain conditions for 39,488 hectares. So, we are trying, keeping in view the ecological

considerations and the forest regulations, giving land which can be usefully utilised for the people who are living in the forest areas or nearby areas, to the poor people in the rural areas.

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Is there any other programme. That was my question.

SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR: I have mentioned that there are a number of schemes. The Forest Department itself has a scheme and in the Rural Development Ministry we have got many major schemes. Many major schemes are also run by the Wasteland Development Board. I have mentioned just now, a few minutes back, that there are a number of schemes. We have got under this many schemes like the Integrated Wasteland Development Project Scheme, we have got the Investment Promotion Scheme, we have got the Technology Development Expansion Scheme, support to NGOs and voluntary organisations for wasteland development. Scheme for promotion of Physical Sports Services and Wasteland Development Task Force. So these schemes are very well-conceived and these are being implemented in consultation with the State Governments and through the State Governments in many parts of the country.

श्री धूपेन्द्र सिंह मान: सर, मंत्री जी ने अभी कहा कि इन्फोचमेंट सात लाख कुछ हेक्टेयर होगा। जो इन्फोचमेंट करने वाले लोग हैं, उनके लिये ये स्कीम बनाकर उनके देना चाहते हैं। तो क्या यह इन्फोचमेंट अगर सात लाख से बढ़कर चौदह लाख हो जाये और चौदह लाख से बढ़कर अठाईस लाख हो जाय तो फिर उनको भी यह उस स्कीम में जमा करेंगे? इसका मतलब यह हुआ कि इन्फोचमेंट करने वालों को उत्साह दिया जा रहा है। इसलिये इन्फोचमेंट के बजाय यह क्यों नहीं करते कि उनको निरुत्साहित किया जाये, यह मैं मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहता हूँ?

श्री रामेश्वर ठाकुर: सामान्य तौर से जो जंगलात और जमीन है वह राज्य सरकारों के अन्तर्गत है और वह उसको निगरानी करती है। हम लोगों की कोशिश रही है कि इसमें बढ़ती न हो। हमारी जानकारी में हमने इसमें घटती की है। जो 1.1.1983 को 700633 हेक्टेयर

जमीन थी, उसमें से राज्य सरकार के प्रस्ताव के मुताबिक 247293 एकड़ जमीन हमने उनके यूजफुल परजेज के लिये आवंटित किया है, काम के लिये आवंटित किया है और उसके बाद एक लाख चार हजार एयूवल दी गयी हैं। इस तरह से इसमें घटती हुई है। हम लोगों की जानकारी में कोई ऐसी जगह नहीं है जहाँ पर — छोटे मोटे इन्फोर्चमेंट हो सकते हैं, लेकिन राज्य सरकार इस पर निगरानी रखती है और कोशिश यह होती है कि इन्फोर्चमेंट न किये जाये।

SHRI BASANT KUMAR DAS: Mr. Chairman, Sir, this forest land development through the Wasteland Development Board is going on in my State, i.e., Orissa, particularly in Kalahandi. So far as the forest land is concerned, this Wasteland Development Board's activities are going on there through the district administration and recently I had come across a confrontation with the forest officials and the district administration officials regarding this. The Wasteland Development Board people are ruining the natural species from the jungles and planting fruit-bearing trees and other non-wood products of no value in the same area thereby destroying the natural ecology of that place. Also, Sir there is another problem in my area and that is snifting cultivation. The forest land is normally burnt and they go in for cultivation for a year or so and then they desert the place and they go to another place....

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now put it as a question.

SHRI BASANT KUMAR DAS: So, I would like to know from the Minister whether they have got any scheme to settle these people, encroaching and destroying the forest land through shifting cultivation, known as *turn* cultivation in that area, my and also instructing the development authorities not to remove the natural species from that area.

SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR: Sir, so far as the work of the Wasteland Development Board is concerned, they are proceeding with various schemes. I

have enumerated them in a systematic manner. As far as the species and natural ecological conditions in a particular area are concerned, they are being looked after by the concerned Ministry, i.e. Forests and Environment Ministry and also our Board takes care of the local needs and also safeguards the natural ecology.

If there are some specific cases which the hon. member would like to bring to our notice, our ministry will examine and advise the State Government to take care of those aspects.

SHRI BASANT KUMAR DAS: There are 19 cases against the Wasteland Development Board's activities.

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO): Sir, I would like to say something on this. Sir, for centuries we have had this 'Jhum' cultivation going on in forest areas. It is not so much the dearth of land or the impossibility of settling them on regular agriculture, but it has become a part of the life of the tribal people, and for various reasons they have been taking resort to this 'Jhum' cultivation. We call it 'podu' in the South and 'Jhum' here. I think, the Ministry of Environment and Forests has been seized of this matter. I would not be able to give details, but we can give details to the hon. Members after consulting them. But this is the situation. It is not so much the dearth of land. There is a lot of land available. We have tried this. In Andhra Pradesh and some other States, it has been tried, but it has not proved successful for various reasons. May be, there were some defects in the schemes that were formulated. But the efforts to formulate schemes to effectively stop 'Jhum' cultivation are going on. With how much success, I cannot say right now, but it is in the other Ministry.

श्री जनार्दन चादव: माननीय सभापति जी, मैं आपके माध्यम से यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि छोटा नागपुर और संथाल परगना और बिहार के अन्य जो जंगल पड़ते हैं और देश के दूसरे जंगली क्षेत्रों में जो हजारों वर्षों से

लोग जंगल के अन्दर और जंगल के किनारे रह रहे हैं और खेती करते आ रहे हैं, अफस उनको खेती करने से रोकता जा रहा है। 1980 का वन संरक्षण कानून बनने के बाद जिन लोगों की जमीन पहले से आ रही थी उनको भी भगाया जा रहा है। मैं सरकार से जानना चाहता हूँ कि 1980 के वन संरक्षण कानून में संशोधन कर के जंगल के अन्दर और जंगल के किनारे पर जो हरिजन, आदिवासी और पिछड़े वर्गों के लोग रह रहे हैं, गरीब हैं, क्या उनको खेती के लिए फलदार पौधे लगाने के लिए वह जमीन आवंटित करेंगे?

श्री रामेश्वर ठाकुर: सभापति जी, हमारे इनवायर्न-मेंट और फॉरेस्ट मंत्रालय की तरफ से ग्रामीण लोगों में इस तरह की जमीन के कंज़र्वेशन और सुरक्षा के लिए, विकास के लिए, विस्तार से गाइडलाईन बनाई गई है और तदनुसार राज्य सरकारों अपने-अपने क्षेत्रों में जमीन के विकास के लिए कार्य कर रही है। मैं समझता हूँ कि यही कानून वहाँ भी लागू है छोटा नागपुर और संथाल परगना के लिए और उसके मातहत उस तरह की जो जमीन है, उसकी एक प्रक्रिया है, उसके अनुसार राज्य सरकार को करना चाहिये।

श्री जनार्दन यादव: जिन लोगों की जंगल की जमीन हजारों वर्षों से है उनको भगाया जा रहा है (व्यवधान)

श्री वीरेन जे० झाह: उनको जमीन नहीं दे रहे हैं (व्यवधान)

श्री जनार्दन यादव: जो हजारों वर्षों से रह रहे हैं, उनको इस एक्ट के तहत बेदखल किया जा रहा है।

श्री रामेश्वर ठाकुर: जो एक्ट 1980 में बना है फॉरेस्ट कंज़र्वेशन का, उसके अनुसार हमारे विभाग की

to

regularise encroachment that had taken place prior to 25.10.1980.

एक तिथि निर्धारित है, उसके पूर्व जितनी भी जमीन इस तरह की है जिस पर लोगों ने दखल कर लिया था, कब्ज़ा कर लिया था, इनक्रोचमेंट हुआ था, उस जमीन के लिए विस्तार से गाइडलाईंस विभाग की तरफ से बनाई गई है और तदनुसार सभी राज्यों को यह सुझाव दिया गया है वहाँ इस तरह की कार्यवाही करें।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question No. 442.

जम्मू और कश्मीर गये पर्यटकों की संख्या

*442. **श्रीमती आनन्दीबेन जेठाभाई पटेल:** क्या नागर विमानन और पर्यटन यंत्रों यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) 1 जनवरी, 1994 से 30 जून, 1994 तक की अवधि के दौरान कुल कितने पर्यटक जम्मू और कश्मीर गये और उनमें से कितने भारतीय पर्यटक थे; और

(ख) उक्त अवधि के दौरान उनसे जम्मू और कश्मीर सरकार को कुल कितनी आय हुई?

नागर विमानन और पर्यटन मंत्रालय में राज्यमंत्री (श्रीमती सुखबंस कौर): (क) राज्य सरकार से उपलब्ध जानकारी के अनुसार, 1 जनवरी से 30 जून, 1994 के दौरान जम्मू और कश्मीर में आए पर्यटकों की कुल संख्या 1809062 थी जिनमें 1804555 स्वदेशी पर्यटक शामिल थे।

(ख) पर्यटकों द्वारा खर्च की जाने वाली राशियाँ, सेवाएँ मुहैया कराने वालों द्वारा ली जाती हैं जो अधिकांशतः प्राइवेट क्षेत्र में हैं, न कि जम्मू और कश्मीर सरकार द्वारा।

श्रीमती आनन्दीबेन जेठाभाई पटेल: सर, जम्मू और कश्मीर में पर्यटकों की संख्या कम हो गयी है। टूरिस्टों की संख्या कम होने से आमदनी कम हो गयी है और इस क्षेत्र का विकास रुका हुआ है। अभी 6 मास में 5540 पर्यटक वहाँ पहुँचे हैं। ऐसी स्थिति क्यों हो गयी। वह स्थिति दूर करने के लिए सरकार क्या कदम उठाना चाहती है और विदेशी पर्यटकों की संख्या बढ़ाने के लिए क्या प्रभावी कदम उठाना चाहती है जिससे हमें विदेशी मुद्रा ज्यादा मिले और राज्य का विकास हो सके।

श्रीमती सुखबंस कौर: इसमें कोई शक नहीं है कि जम्मू और कश्मीर के हालात के कारण टूरिस्ट कम आ रहे हैं। उससे यह भी जाहिर है कि आमदनी कम आ रही है, फॉरेन एक्सचेंज कम आ रहा है। लेकिन हमने यह कोशिश की है—सरकार अपनी तरफ से पूरी कोशिश कर रही है कि हालात वहाँ पर सुधरे और अभी हमने देखा है कि जो अमरनाथ यात्रा थी यह बहुत अच्छे तरीके से हुई, सफ़ल हुई। यह इंडीकेशन है कि वहाँ के हालात में कुछ सुधार हो रहा है। जहाँ तक टूरिज्म का सवाल है हम अपनी पूरी कोशिश कर रहे हैं कि जो प्रोजेक्ट्स वहाँ थे उनकी कंप्लीट करें और जहाँ अगर बैली में कुछ नहीं हो सकता तो स्टेट की दूसरी जगहों लद्दाख या जम्मू में ऐसे प्रोजेक्ट्स लाने जिससे