

(e) what steps are being taken to increase the number of the rare species of Rhinoceros ?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH) : (a) to (e) Information is being collected from the State Government of Assam and will be laid on the Table of the House.

#### Re^pori of Wildlife Fund

1374. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the report on World Wildlife Fund to the effect that India is losing more temperate forest than any other country in the World;

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government of India in regard thereto:

(c) the total forest land lost every year in the country alongwith, its percentage of total forest land during the last three years; and

(d) what steps are being taken to afforest the land alongwith the achievements made, during the last three years ?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH) : (a) and (b) Information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

(c) Total forest land diverted for non-forestry purposes and its percentage of the total forest area of the country during the last three years is given as under :

S. No.	Year	Forest Area Diverted (In ha.)	Percentage to total Forest Area
1.	1990	1,38,551.33	0.1799%
2.	1991	625.21	0.0008%
3.	1992 (upto Oct., 1992)	5,372.13	0.0069%

(d) Compensatory afforestation carried out in lieu of diversion of forest land is given below :—

S. No.	Year	Compensatory afforestation carried out (in ha.)
1.	1990	41,205
2.	1991	45,047
3.	1992	52,749*

\*Continuing.

#### Forest Area in the Country

1375. SHRI RAM RATAN RAM : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) what is the total area under forest in India as on 1st November, 1992;

(b) whether the area under forest is decreasing fast and at what rate;

(c) what is the area brought under afforestation during the last 16 years; and

(d) what steps are being taken to stop the denudation of forests ?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH) : (a) No assessment of Area under forest as on 1st November 1992 has been made. However, as per the State Forest Report 1991 of Forest Survey of India the total recorded forest Area in the country is 7,70,078 Sq- kms.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) An area of 134.50 lakh ha. was afforested under the 20 Point Programme during the Sixth and Seventh Plan period

(d) The various steps taken by the Government to Stop the denudation of forests are :—

(i) Guidelines have been issued, to State Government/UTs to consider banning green felling on

mountains/hills above 1000 metres;

- (ii) Forest protection measures are being intensified including strengthening of infra-structure facilities to curb biotic interference in the forests;
- (iii) Enactment of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, to check diversion of forest land for non-forestry purposes.

**Diversion of Exquisite' Forest Land in Dhule for people already settled on Forest Land**

1376. SHRI SURESH KALMADI : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Maharashtra Government has requested the Government of India to give clearance for diversion of another 1500 hectares of exquisite forest land in Dhule district for rehabilitating the people already settled on forest lands in the district; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction in regard thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH) : (a) A proposal for diversion of additional 1500 ha. of forest land for rehabilitation of Sardar Sarovar affected persons has been received from

the Maharashtra State Government under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

(b) After examination of the proposal, certain essential lacking details have been sought from Maharashtra State Government on 24-1-92.

**Irrigation Projects of Madhya Pradesh pending Environmental clearance**

1377. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that various irrigation projects of Madhya Pradesh are pending for environmental clearance with the Government under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for a long time;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) by when Government propose to give clearance to these projects ?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH) : (a) and (b) As on 31-10-92, 29 irrigation projects of Madhya Pradesh were pending with the Central Government under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. The details are as per attached Statement [See below].

(c) After receipt of the complete details from the State Government and carrying out of site inspection, if necessary, the proposals are examined expeditiously for final decision.

**Statement**

*Details of Irrigation Projects of Madhya Pradesh pending with Central Government as on 31st October 1992*

Sl. No.	Forest Area involved	District	Name of the Project	Pending since
1	2	3	4	5
1.	447.247 ha.	Bastar	Kosarteda M.I.P.	September 1992
2.	95.930 ha.	Bastar	Construction of P. V. 103 Irrigation Project.	Do.
3.	33.204 ha.	Bastar	Nebta Tank Project	Do
4.	7.710 ha.	Bilaspur	Khudri Irrigation Project.	Do.
5.	13.584 ha.	Bilaspur	Dandibahora Tank.	Do
6.	54.520 ha.	Raipur	Dhabakhar Tank Project	Do.