

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The objectives of releasing quotas for export of raw cotton are stabilisation of prices in the domestic market, provision of remunerative prices to the cotton growers and to maintain India's presence in the international market as a stable supplier.

Demand and Production of Firewood

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

(a) Whether the Forests Report, 1987 compiled by Forest Survey of India states that there is gap of 235 million cubic metres between demand and sustainable production of firewood in the country; and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken by Government to bridge this gap?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Yes, Sir. The gap is only 195 M. cum. and not 235 M. cum.

(b) Steps taken by Government to bridge this gap are:

(i) Alternative sources of energy are being developed to replace fuelwood in domestic and commercial sectors.

(ii) Improved Chullahs are being popularised in rural areas to save fuelwood.

(iii) Alternate fuels like Kerosene, LPG etc. are being subsidised in tribal areas.

(iv) Solar cookers are being advocated to harness solar energy.

(v) Massive afforestation programmes have been launched to raise fuelwood and fodder plantations under social forestry programme.

Promotion of Afforestation in the Country

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

(a) what is the current rate of deforestation in the country;

(b) what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what are the schemes under implementation at present by Government to check deforestation and promote afforestation in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) According to the State of Forest Report 1989 the annual rate of loss of forest cover is 47,500 hectares.

(b) The causes of decline of forest cover are:

(1) Higher demand for fuelwood and timber due to increased population.

(2) Overgrazing leading to degradation of forest land.

(3) Requirements of wood based industries.

(4) Insufficient financial outlays for regeneration of degraded forest land.

(5) The problem of shifting cultivation in tribal areas especially in the North Eastern Region.

(c) Following schemes are being implemented to promote afforestation and to check deforestation:

(1) The Integrated Wastelands Development Scheme.

(2) Scheme for fuelwood and fodder project.

(3) Peoples nurseries scheme.

(4) Scheme for conservation of minor forest produce.

(5) Scheme for Aerial seeding.

(6) Scheme for development of forest and pasture seeds.

(7) Margin money scheme.

(8) Grants-in-aid scheme.

(9) A Centrally sponsored Scheme is under implementation to help the States for development of infrastructure for protection of forests.

(10) Wood is substituted by alternative materials in packaging, railway sleepers, building construction, furniture etc.

(11) Fiscal incentives are given to industries using wood substitute raw materials such as agro waste etc.

(12) Import Policy for timber has been liberalised.

Central Assistance for Bandhavgarh National Park, Madhya Pradesh

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

(a) whether Government are aware that the Bandhavgarh National Park in Madhya Pradesh despite its richness in wild life is not properly maintained on account of lack of funds; and

(b) if so, whether Government plans to give assistance to the state Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) All efforts are being made to ensure that the Bandhavgarh National Park in Madhya Pradesh is properly maintained. In pursuance of the policy of development of national parks, Government of India have been providing each year assistance for the development of the Bandhavgarh National Park under the centrally sponsored scheme for the development of national parks. During 1985-86 to 1990-91 the amount of the above central assistance sanctioned was Rs. 27,07,783.

Nehru Homoeopathy Medical College

179. MOHD. KHALEELUR RAHMAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether on the recommendations of Central Government and Central Council for Homoeopathy, the University of Delhi has agreed to affiliate the Nehru Homoeopathy Medical College, New Delhi, on certain conditions like acceptance of statute 12 of U.G.C.;

(b) what are the details of the conditions laid down by the University of Delhi and when these were communicated to Delhi Administration;

(c) what are the reasons for not accepting till date by Delhi Administration the conditions laid down by University of Delhi when the request for affiliation was made by the Delhi Administration itself; and

(d) by when the Delhi Administration are going to accept the usual condition laid down by the University paving the way for affiliation of NHMC and the University of Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) and (b) The Academic Council of Delhi University, at its meeting held on 22.5.90 approved the proposal to grant provisional affiliation to Nehru Homoeopathic Medical College, New Delhi, subject to the condition that Delhi Administration agrees that the service conditions of teachers of the College will be the same as are applicable to the College Appointed Teachers under Ordinance XII of the Ordinances of the University. The decision of the University was conveyed to the Delhi Administration on 14.6.90.

(c) and (d) Matter is under the consideration of Delhi Administration.