

THE MINISTER OF STATE  
IN THE MINISTRY OF EN-  
VIRONMENT AND FORESTS  
(SMT. MANEKA GANDHI):

(a) The National Forest Policy 1988 states that National goal should be to have a minimum one third of total land area of the country under forest or tree cover.

The minimum per capita forest cover required in the country for sustainable development is estimated to be 0.4 hectares. This is against 0.11 hectares of the forest area per capita available at present.

(b) National Wastelands Development Board was set up in 1985 with the aim of implementing a massive programme of afforestation in the country with the people's participation.

#### **Contract for construction of Flats in IIT**

2211. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the, Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi had awarded a contract about two years ago for construction of flats for Professors and Lecturers of the Institute;

(b) if so, what was the amount of the contract and how and to which organisation the contract was awarded; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that the said contract was awarded without calling for open tenders; if so, what action has been taken by Government against the officials of the IIT, who were instrumental in awarding the contract without floating tenders?

THE MINISTER OF STATE  
IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN  
RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT  
(SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The amount of the contract was Rs. 222.5 lakhs. Indian Institute of Technology Delhi, an institute established by an Act of Parliament has well established norms to award tenders and to look after the construction programme, and is advised by its Building and Works Committee established as per the IIT Act. This Committee, in accordance with these norms decided to award the work to National Buildings Construction Corporation at the then prevalent market rate after suitable negotiations.

#### **IAF-Mirage 2000 Aircraft flying without Armaments**

2212. SHRI KAPIL VERMA: SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Air Force aircraft MIRAGE 2000 flew for almost two years without any major armaments as there was none in the I. A. F. inventory;

(b) if so, what were the reasons therefor;

(c) when was the acquisition of aircraft completed and when was the contract for weapons signed; and

(d) whether there was a time-lag between the acquisition of the aircraft and the armaments for it; if so, what were the reasons there for?

THE MINISTER OF STATE  
IN THE MINISTRY OF DE-  
FENCE (DR. RAJA RAMAN-  
NA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The acquisition of the aircraft was completed by September, 1988 while the contracts for weapons were signed between Octo-