

Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir have taken the following measures to reduce felling of green trees in the Himalayan forests:

(i) Uttar Pradesh—Felling of green trees have been stopped above 1000 metres elevation in hilly areas.

(ii) Himachal Pradesh—No commercial green fellings are being carried out.

(iii) Jammu and Kashmir—Felling of green trees has been reduced, especially in hilly areas and places of tourist interest.

(b) The following directives were issued in June, 1964 to the States in the Himalayan Region;

(i) In areas outside Reserved Forests complete ban on green and commercial fellings be imposed till the State Government have identified the sensitive areas, and Management Plans/Schemes have been compiled for their scientific management on priority basis.

(ii) In Reserved Forests areas also, moratorium on green and commercial fellings should be imposed till a Committee constituted by State Government with representatives of the Central Government has examined and reviewed all Working Plans to identify sensitive areas and taken measures for their protection.

(iii) Environmental Conservation should be given due importance while framing the prescriptions of these Management Plans, (Working Plans).

(iv) The ban or moratorium should, however, be subject to maintenance of customary rights of the people, especially the poor with regard to supply of fuelwood for bonafide domestic use.

(c) The National Forest Policy, 1988 states that in the hills and in mountainous regions, the aim should

be to maintain two-thirds of the area under such cover in order to prevent erosion and land degradation and to ensure the stability of the fragile eco-system.

Construction of a Tunnel through Zojila Pass in J. and K.

58. SHRI SHABBIR AHMED SALARIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ladakh region of Jammu and Kashmir remains cut off for eight months in a year from the rest of the State due to heavy snowfall on the Zojila pass which poses a serious danger to the defence of that region, besides causing grave hardships to the people of that region; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to construct a tunnel in the manner in which a tunnel connecting Ladakh with Himachal Pradesh is being constructed?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. Adequate stocking of essential goods and other measures are taken to reduce the hardship to the people of that region in the winter season.

(b) No, Sir.

Waste Land in the Country

59. SHRI SHABBIR AHMED SALARIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total area of the wasteland in our country, statewise, as per the surveys conducted recently;

(b) whether any plan has been finalised for afforestation of waste land in the country; and

(c) if no plan has been formulated, what are the reasons; therefore; and

by when the same is likely to be formulated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI MANE-KA GANDHI): (a) Statewise surveys of wastelands have not been conducted recently. However, an estimate of Statewise areas of waste-

lands in the country is given in the statement. (See below)

(b) Afforestation activities on wastelands are already being carried out under various Central and State Plan Schemes, including the externally aided Social Forestry Projects. The targets and achievements in the Seventh Plan Period are given below:—

Year	Area in million hectares	
	Target	Achievement
		1.51
		1.76
		1.77
		2.12
		1.30 (upto October 1989)

*This does not include Social Forestry activities carried out by the Panchayats under the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana.

(c) Does not arise.

Statement

Estimates of wastelands in India (in Lac hectares)

States/UT	Total
Andhra Pradesh	114.16
Assam	17.30
Bihar	54.58
Gujarat	78.36
Haryana	24.78
Himachal Pradesh	19.58
Jammu and Kashmir .	15.65
Karnataka	91.65
Kerala	12.79

States	Total
Madhya Pradesh	201.42
Maharashtra	144.01
Manipur	14.38
Meghalaya	19.18
Nagaland	13.86
Orissa	63.84
Punjab	12.30
Rajasthan	199.34
Sikkim	2.81
Tamil Nadu	44.01
Tripura	9.173
Uttar Pradesh	80.61
West Bengal	25.36
UTs ...	36.04
TOAL	1295.74

N.B. The above estimate is not based on country-wide survey of all wastelands in the country.

Afforestation of the Himalayas

60. SHRI SHABBIR AHMED SALARIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state whether Government propose to make a master plan for afforestation of the Indian Himalayas falling in the States of Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh and Jammu & Kashmir?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI MATI MANEKA GANDHD: If forestation activities in the Himalayan region including the States of Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh and Jammu & Kashmir are being carried out under various Central and State Plan Schemes'. The State Governments have been advised to prepare area specific action plans for waste lands development during the Eighth Plan period.

Plan outlays for the Forestry Sector

61. SHRI SHABBIR AHMED SALARIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the figures of allocation for the Forestry sector as percentage of the total outlay of the plans from the 1st to the Seventh Five Year Plan;

(b) what is the proposal for the Eighth Five Year Plan from the Ministry to the Planning Commission regarding allocation in Forestry and Environment Sector;

(c) whether it is a fact that this most vital sector was relegated to an inferior position in these plans; and

(d) what steps have been taken by Government or propose to take to halt the degradation of Forests, natural environment and ecology?