

All India Sikh Students Federation gave a call to hold a conference in the Golden Temple Complex on 26th June, 1987. In order to check the activities of the militants the police conducted searches in some buildings in the Complex. The conference was not held on 26th June, 1987. Steps have been taken to prevent the extremists from using the Complex for unlawful activities. A close watch is being maintained in this regard.

Denudation of Forest Area in Andhra Pradesh

1063. PROF. B. RAMACHANDRA RAO : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that forest area is being denuded at a staggering rate of 0.8—1.00 million hectares in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) which of the districts in Andhra Pradesh are affected thereby;

(c) whether it is a fact that some of the species of trees will be extinct as a result thereof;

(d) whether the Central Government have engaged the Administrative Staff College for making a detailed study of the matter;

(e) if so, what are the findings of the study; and

(f) what action is being taken to reverse this process?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) The Central Government have not engaged the Administrative Staff College for making a detailed specific study of deforestation in Andhra Pradesh.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) The following measures have been taken by the Government to reverse the trend of deforestation:—

1. Guidelines have been issued to the State Governments:

(i) to avoid clearfelling of natural forests and where such fellings are inevitable for restoration of crop or other silvicultural considerations, it should be restricted to areas not exceeding 10 hectares in the hills and 25 hectares in the plains;

(ii) to consider banning of felling in the hills above 1000 metres, at least for some years;

(iii) to identify critical areas in the hills and mountains which require protection from felling of forests and need immediate vigorous afforestation.

(iv) to set apart 4 per cent of the geographical area as protection areas like wildlife sanctuaries, national parks, biosphere reserves etc.;

2. Development of infrastructure and enforcement of legal provisions for the protection of forest.

3. Enactment of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 to check diversion of forest land to non-forest purposes.

4. Development of alternative sources of energy to replace fuelwood in domestic and commercial sectors.

5. Substitution of wood by alternative materials in packaging, railway sleepers and building construction.

6. Liberalised import policy for forest products.

UNCTAD-VII

1064. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Ministry of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the UNCTAD-VII recently met in July, 1987 in Geneva;

(b) if so, what is the outcome of the meet;