

night for checking of vehicles etc. One Deputy Commissioner of Police is also detailed for night patrolling to supervise the police personnel on duty. As and when any complaint about harassment/extortion of money is received immediate action thereon is taken. Besides, there is a Vigilance Cell headed by a Deputy Commissioner of Police at the Police Headquarters and also an Anti Corruption Branch under the Delhi Administration. Complaints in this regard can be lodged with them.

Violation of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 in Orissa

1618. SHRI BASUDEB MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 has been violated by diverting forest land to irrigation projects in Orissa;

(b) if so, what is the total number of projects involved in such violation; and

(c) what steps Government have taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) and (b) Violation of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 has been noticed in one proposal pertaining to an irrigation project in Orissa, namely the Upper Jonk Irrigation Project in Kalahandi district.

(c) The circumstances in which this violation has occurred have been explained by the Government of Orissa with a request to condone the violation. The violation was condoned and the proposal was approved on 26.2.1986.

Condition of Indian employees working in the Japanese Embassy in New Delhi

1619. SHRI KALPNATH RAI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to a reported news item which appeared in a National Daily on the 6th

April, 1987 regarding maltreatment being meted out to the Indian employees working in the Japanese Embassy, Chanakya-puri, New Delhi:

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

(c) what action Government have taken or propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) One of the Indian employees of the Embassy of Japan in New Delhi who had met with an accident was relieved of his service by the Embassy since he was found unsuitable for the job as he could no longer perform his duties efficiently. The Embassy of Japan gave him one month's notice in September 1986. However, there was some dispute between the Embassy of Japan and the Indian Employee over the amount to be paid to him as gratuity, bonus and provident fund etc. He was allowed to stay in his quarter free of any charge till March 1987. There was also some altercation between members of his family and the officials of the Embassy of Japan when the latter asked him to vacate his quarter on 4th March, 1987. The Embassy of Japan had to summon the police for assistance. It is understood that the local police station has not registered any case in this regard.

(c) Government had requested the Embassy to settle this matter amicably and has been informed by the Embassy that this matter has been settled.

Availability of polyester fibre for open sale

1620. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a huge quantity of polyester staple fibre which is imported by parties against the advance licence is being sold in the market by them;

(b) whether it is a fact that such material is being regularly sold in the market of Ludhiana since a very long time;

(c) if so, what action has been taken to stop this illegal sale of fibre; and

(d) what are the reasons for which the parties who are importing this material as 'Actual Users' against advance licence are not being taken to task for violating the rules in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) Some cases of abuse of imported polyester staple fibre against advance licences have come to notice.

(b) Government have no such information.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Appropriate action has been taken wherever violation of condition of the licence has come to notice.

Manufacture of bullet-proof vests

1621. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what efforts have been made to manufacture bullet-proof vests in India; and

(b) whether it is a fact that a number of companies have sent proposals to Government for indigenous manufacture of such vests, if so, what action has been or is being taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) The Bureau of Police Research and Development under the Ministry of Home Affairs

have been directed to make efforts to indigenise the manufacture of bullet-proof vests. They are contacting various Departments of the Government dealing with the technology on the subject, to examine the possibility of mass production of the basic fibre needed for fabrication of the bullet-proof vests. They are also examining the offers made by various private firms for indigenous manufacture of this item. The samples offered are evaluated to ascertain whether they meet the required specifications and whether the firms can undertake mass production.

Need for protection of forests

1622. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of a recent news report captioned 'Need to create an awareness on the benefits of forests';

(b) whether it is a fact that a large area of forests is eroded every year due to increasing demand from the growing population for roads and other similar reasons;

(c) whether Government have any proposal to bring awareness among the people about the benefits accrued from the forests; and

(d) if so, what is the programme of Government in this regard?

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

(b) to (c) The forests are under severe pressure due to increasing demand for forest products from the rising population. The Department has launched a National Environment Awareness Campaign to create awareness on protection of environment and forests at all levels. The Department also has a scheme on Environment Education and Training to