

श्री बी० सत्यनारायण रेड्डी : मेरा दूसरा सवाल है।

श्री सभापति : दूसरा सवाल अगर सही होगा तो पूछने की इजाजत दूंगा। नहीं तो मैं भागे बड़े रहा हूँ।

श्री बी० सत्यनारायण रेड्डी : सही-सही होगा। दूसरा सवाल यह है कि मैं किसी पार्टिकुलर जगह के बारे में नहीं पूछ रहा हूँ, मैं यह पूछ रहा हूँ कि जो भी कमिशन ने सारे देश के बारे में अपनी रिपोर्टिंग की है, उसने सारे देश का दौरा किया होगा, उसके बाद अपनी रिपोर्ट दी होगी तो उस रिपोर्टिंग के ऊपर सरकार क्या कदम उठा रही है? अगर कदम उठा रही है तो कब से काम शुरू होगा? इस बारे में मैं मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहता हूँ।

श्री शिवराज जी० पाटिल : श्रीमन्, यह जो रिपोर्ट आई है कमिशन के पास वह इस बारे में सोच रहा है और उसके बाद गवर्नमेंट के पास आयेगी। उसके बाद जल्द से जल्द उस पर कदम उठाना होगा।

श्री बी० सत्यनारायण रेड्डी : यह कोई जवाब नहीं है।

Control of environment

*146. SHRI BHAGAT RAM MANHAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to evolve various schemes for control of environment in the country;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and the areas which are proposed to be covered in this regard;

(c) what are the measures taken by Government to reduce the environmental pollution in the country and

the success achieved in this regard, during the last one year;

(d) whether Government have also set up Task Forces for the maintenance of ecological balance in the country; and

(e) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINH): (a) to (e) A Statement is being laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) On-going activities include Environmental research, Education, Training and Awareness; environmental appraisal of development projects; ecodevelopment; pollution control; nature and wildlife conservation; and protection of endangered species. Afforestation and tree plantation are also among the important activities of the Government in this direction. The proposed programmes are mainly the setting up of National Environmental Monitoring Organisation; establishment of more national parks and sanctuaries, environmental conservation in national heritage areas and environmental mapping and ecological surveys.

(c) The Central Government have enacted the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 for the prevention and control of water and air pollution. Some of the measures initiated include the augmentation of sewerage facilities and regulation of industrial effluents from the pollution sources. Regular monitoring of major rivers is being conducted to assess the pollution loads and the remedial measures are being progressively taken. Guidelines for pollution control in several industrial sector have been prepared and widely disseminated. These are being implemented through the State and Central Boards.

(d) Yes Sir. A task force of ex-Servicemen has been set up for ecological regeneration in the Himalayas.

(e) The objectives of the Eco-Development Task Force was to deploy ex-servicemen on activities related to ecological regeneration of critical areas of the country particularly in the Himalayan Region. The Task Force has become operational from 1-12-1982. It is deployed in Uttar Pradesh for soil conservation and afforestation activities, along with construction of protective works in the denuded Siwalik slopes,

SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR : Sir, on the outset. I congratulate the Prime Minister on her keen and personal interest in many activities including environmental research, education, training, etc. Sir, our country is one of the very few countries of the world which enshrined in its Constitution a commitment to environmental protection and improvement. Time and again the Prime Minister has stressed that deterioration of the environment threatens the present and future well-being of both our country and our people. However, with the continuing pressure of an exploding population, a number of species of flora, fauna and primitive tribes are facing the danger of extinction. The continuing degradation of forests has created environmental hazards in the form of floods, droughts, soil erosion, silt damage, water scarcity and weather disruptions.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Are you giving us a ..
(Interruptions) Where is the question?
(Interruptions)

SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR: Sir, ecology is a permanent economy and, therefore, all efforts should be made for its security. (Interruptions) Environment protection and conservation of forests will have to be the backbone of our national development. (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: You put your question.

SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR: I am putting the question, sir, I want to know from the hon. Minister as to what are the schemes of the Government to protect endangered species of flora, fauna and primitive tribes. Secondly, Sir, when the Government will create a nodal agency for the development of forests and wild-life?

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINH: Sir, there are several measures which are to be implemented for conservation of our wild-life, about which the hon. Member is most concerned. The Wild-life Protection Act of 1972 is in force which includes not only the conservation of the species but also of the habitat. And we have as a result today national parks which have been raised to 44 in the last one year and 207 sanctuaries spread all over the country. And thus there is no State which does not have either a national park or a sanctuary. And the conservation not only of the species of wild-life in these areas but also the habitat in all these sanctuaries and national parks are, by and large, well maintained. Furthermore, Sir, we have a project of creating biosphere reserves which would be the areas which would not only conserve the fauna and flora but the whole eco system including the man if he is living in that area. And we have identified the areas and this project will be embarked this year.
(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Just a minute. Let him finish first.

SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR: Sir, I want to know in what manner the Government intends to reduce air, sound and water pollutions in the country in general and big cities in particular. Secondly, I want to know whether the Government is aware that in the catchments of Bhakra and Hirakud and other dams there has been climatic and ecological disruptions, and if so, what measures the Government is contemplating to meet the

adverse situation and whether the Government intends to set up an experts committee to study the situation.

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINH: Sir, as far as the first portion of the question about air and water pollution is concerned, abatement is governed by the two Acts for air and water pollution. And particularly in the last one year, with the growing awareness not only in the public at large but even amongst our Legislators here and in every Assembly, there is direct control and prosecutions, and various industries in various States are now getting more and more conscious and they are making investments in both water and air pollution treatment. As far as noise pollution is concerned which the hon. Member has mentioned. I am afraid there is no. . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing can be done about it. I know it very well.

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINH: There is no comprehensive all-India legislation.

But every Municipality can under its own rules exercise control on noise pollution.

SHRIMATI USHA MALHOTRA: Will it apply to the Parliament also?

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINH: The hon. Member mentioned about the Hirakud and that is the area which is by and large forest area. And after the 1980 Forest Conservation Act, deforestation and encroachment in the areas which formed the catchment area of the Hirakud has, to some extent, been thwarted and stalled. So, it is a good suggestion, if the suggestion comes for having a task force, specially for the catchment area of the Hirakud. But by and large after the Conservation Act, the forest areas are preserved and the encroachment which used to be there, has to a large extent been reduced.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, Shri Kalmadi, otherwise we will have noise pollution.

SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Sir, I must concede that the Minister for Environment has been taking a lot of interest and he has set up many committees and boards. My only suggestion to him would be that in these committees and boards there should be less of bureaucracy. The environment in the Environment Boards must be better. People from all walks of life should be involved in these Boards. That is one thing. Secondly, Sir, as far as Bombay is concerned, it is growing beyond its size and people are flocking to Bombay in a big way. Therefore the greater Bombay proposal was made. But people are not yet shifting to those areas. I would like to know whether the Central Government would take a lead and shift all its offices to new Bombay.

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINH: Sir, the comment that I would like to make upon the hon. Member's observations is that it is not only the bureaucracy which is involved in these committees. Now, for the last three months we have also got MLAs involved with these committees. We have got MLAs from various States who are inter-acting and taking interest in these various committees because environment is a movement and it is not a board. As far as his State is concerned, not once but twice the Legislators Forum of Maharashtra has met and shown great interest and concern for solving the problems of Bombay city. As far as his proposal of shifting Central Government Offices out of Bombay to New Bombay is concerned, it is a suggestion which could certainly be looked into in co-ordination with the State Government. But I would like to say that there has been interest as far as Bombay is concerned, of shifting these industries which would like to come out of congested Bombay by taking advantage of a provision made in the Budget, the current Finance Bill, of giving certain tax incentives specially in the way of capital gains for any industry which wants to shift out of congested metropolitan areas on environment grounds.

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI: Sir, the hon. Minister has suggested afforestation as one of the measures. But, has it come to his notice that in many States where there is abundance of forest resources, these are being indiscriminately cut and will his Ministry think in terms of a national, forest policy in consultation with the Department of Agriculture and irn^ press upon the State Governments the desirability to see that forest wealth is, not cut for revenue purposes? Rather there should be a moratorium on it so that this forest wealth is not reduced, as has been the case in many States by now.

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINH : I must concede that the forest wealth of this country could be much better preserved. This is being considered and the Forest Bill is on the anvil by the Forest Department and that Bill will revise the forest laws and will make it more pragmatic from the conservation point of view. As far as the forest policy is concerned, the National Committee on Environmental Planning has formulated and given to the Government the proposed national forest policy and that is being considered by the Ministry of Agriculture.

श्री मिर्जा इरशाद बेग अयूब बेग : मान्यवर समापति जी, जैसा राष्ट्रीय स्तर पर एनॉमलस, वर्ड्स और वेंजेटेशन को प्रोटेक्शन दिया गया है और इसा दजह से इसमें अधिक मात्रा में सहायता भी मिली है और इनको प्रोटेक्शन मिला है तो मैं मान्यवर मंत्री जी से जानना चाहूंगा कि जिस डंग से नेशनल लेवल पर नेशनल वर्ड, नेशनल एनॉमल इनको प्रोटेक्ट किया है, उसी तरह क्या सरकार ने कोई ऐसा आयोजन किया है, ऐसा कुछ सोच रहे हैं इसको राज्य स्तर पर किया जाय जिसमें राज्य स्तर पर एनॉमल, वर्ड और वेंजेटेशन इनको प्रोटेक्शन मिले तो मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या सरकार ऐसा

309 RS—2

पालिसी बनाने के लिये उनसे विचार विमर्श कर रहे हैं ?

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINH: Sir, to focus the attention of the people at large on these invaluable resources like birds, animals and vegetation, it would be a good idea to have a representative animal, bird and tree for every State. But that is left to the genius of every State. But I can tell you, Sir, that as far as the nation is concerned, we do have a national animal, which is the tiger; we do have a national bird which is the peacock. But many States have also adopted.

SHRI SURESH KALMADI: What about Appu?

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINH: birds and animals. Rajasthan has the Great Indian Bustard, Himachal Pradesh has the Monal and Haryana has the Hoopoe...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Does not matter. The list, is long.

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINH: A number of States have adopted animals as well.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think, this is quite enough. We will now have a national animal for Parliament.

Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Report on Silent Valley Project

•141. SHRI SURAJ PRASAD: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Centre-Kerala Joint Committee of Scientists appointed in the wake of a controversy over the desirability of implementing the Silent Valley Project in Kerala has submitted its report;