

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken against such forest officials and timber smugglers; and

(c) if the answer to the part (a) be in the negative, whether Government propose to appoint an inquiry Committee of officials and non-officials to inquire into the above allegations together with the causes of the larger scale encroachment and destruction of Assam forest reserve trees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRIES OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): (a) to (c) The management and protection of forests is the responsibility of the State Government. As such the Government of India are ascertaining the facts from the Govt, of Assam. Necessary action will be taken after the report is available from the State Government.

#### **Restrictions under new Environmental Enactments**

\*339. SHRI GHANSHYAM SINGH:  
SHRI BISHAMBER NATH  
PANDE:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that under the new environmental- enactments, digging of land, laying of water pipelines, erection of telephone and telegraph wires and construction of roads, bridges, schools and hospitals in the forest land of the hill areas by any part of the country situated 1000 ft. above sea level cannot be carried out without the prior permission of Government;

(b) whether it is also a fact that restrictions have also been placed on grazing of cattle and cutting of trees by farmers on their own land;

(c) whether Government are aware of the fact that prosecutions have been launched by Forest Department of Uttar

Pradesh against other Government Departments like Jal Sansthan and Public Works Department of Uttar Pradesh Government for violating the above rules; and

(d) if so, whether Government propose to relax the rules so that Public Utility Services are not affected?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRIES OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): (a) The Forest (Conservation) Act 1980 came into force on 25-10-1980. Under section 2 of the Act no State Government or other authority shall make, except with the prior approval of the Central Government any order directing—

(i) that any reserved forest (within the meaning of the expression "reserved forest" in any law for the time being in force in that State), or any portion thereof, shall cease to be reserved;

(ii) that any forest land or any portion thereof may be used for any non-forest purpose.

For the purposes of this section non-forest purposes means breaking up or clearing of any forest land or portion thereof for any purpose other than reforestation.

Provisions of this Act are applicable to the whole country except the State of Jammu & Kashmir. There is no exemption for areas situated above or below 1000 feet mean sea level.

(b) Grazing is regulated under Forest and Land Revenue settlement awards. Felling of trees by farmers on their own land is regulated under State Acts in some States such as Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Karnataka.

(c) The Government are not aware that prosecutions have been launched

-(Previously Starred Question No. 299, transferred from the 29th July, 1982.

by the Forest Department of U.P. against other Government Departments.

(d) There is no proposal to relax the provisions in this regard.

#### Supply of Wheat to Roller flour Mills

\*400. DR. BHAI MAHAVIR:  
SHRI SHRIDHAR WASUDEO  
DHABE;

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that roller flour mills in India are being supplied wheat by F.C.I. at a subsidised rate whereas there is no price or distribution control on the products;

(b) whether Government are aware that this is resulting in the accumulation of a large amount of black money with (the flour mills), since the subsidy is not being passed on to the consumers; and

(c) if so, what steps Government propose to take to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (RAO BIR-ENDRA SINGH): (a) Wheat is given to the roller flour mills at a subsidized price to ensure availability of wheat products to the consumers at reasonable prices all over the country. Statutory price control is in force in respect of the main wheat products of maida and suji. In respect of the other two products, namely, resultant atta and bran, the State Governments have been advised to fix prices and regulate distribution of the products, pending revision of milling margins by the Central Government. In order to reduce the subsidy burden, the issue price of wheat to roller flour mills has been increased from Rs. 155 to 185 per quintal with effect from 1-8-82, as against Rs. 160 for public distribution through fair price shops.

(b) No such reports have been received by the Government.

(c) Does not arise.

#### Gujarat Narmada Valley Fertilizers

2277. SHRI IBRAHIM KALANIYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that with the use of urea produced from Gujarat Narmada Valley Fertilizers, the production of KHARIF (PAK crops have been increased by the farmers of Gujarat, Rajasthan, Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh;

(b) how much quantity in metric tonnes have been increased during the last three years;

(c) how much national income is likely to be increased in the agricultural products by way of its use;

(d) how much quantity of urea has been produced during the period from 1st January, 1982 to 20th June, 1982 and from 1st February, 1980 to 31st December, 1981;

(e) how much foreign exchange is likely to be saved yearly; and

(f) how much amount is likely to be earned yearly by Government as sales-tax, excise duty and other taxes as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRIES OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): (a) to (c) The use of Plant nutrients in any form is known to have the effect of increasing the agricultural production. There is no difference in the nutrient value of Urea (46 per cent N) produced by the Gujarat Narmada Valley Fertilizers Company Ltd. and other indigenous producers. It is, therefore, not possible to indicate increase in foodgrain production and national income on account of use of urea produced by a particular factory.

(d) Gujarat Narmada Valley Fertilizers Company Limited started trial production in December, 1981 and