

PROF. S. NURUL HASAN : Sir, the Government's policy has been enunciated in the document of the Draft Fifth Five Year Plan which has been discussed in this House and has been discussed by the Committee of the two Houses and this policy is there, Sir, in the various documents of the Central Advisory Board of Education which are available in the Parliament Library.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : My submission is that if the Minister thinks that the draft Five Year Plan is published and the 'approach' is published and these would have really been implemented, honey and milk, would have flown in this country. The difficulty is that it is not implemented. Sufficient investment is not made and sufficient care is not taken by the Government in seeing this potential danger in this country which is going to block the entire fabric of this country.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Schamnad.

SHRI HAMID ALI SCHAMNAD : Sir, it has appeared in the Press that for the better efficiency of education and to judge talents of students there is a proposal to abolish the present system of examinations and some other methods are going to be adopted to judge the talents of students. May I know, Sir ----

MR. CHAIRMAN : Where is the question of examination ?

SHRI HAMID ALI SCHAMNAD : It has appeared in the Press-

DR. K. MATHEWKURIAN : How to determine the standards ?

PROF. S. NURUL HASAN : So far as the examination reform is concerned, Sir, last week we discussed the matter and I gave information about the recommendations which had been made by the Workshops and the hon. Member may very kindly have a look at the reply that was given.

SHRI HAMID ALI SCHAMNAD : Are we accepting that recommendation ?

PROF. S. NURUL HASAN : I had stated that the recommendations of these Workshops are going to be considered by the University Grants Commission. Their report has not yet been made available to me-

DR. RAMKRIPAL SINHA : I would like to know what has led the Government to formulate a new policy in connection with the

evaluation of the examination scripts of students ? Teachers of higher education were formerly paid a separate remuneration. But I fear that Prof. Nurul Hasan has promulgated an order abolishing the old system- I think this is going to affect the standard of higher education. I would like to know what has led the Government to think on this new line and to order for this new approach of removing remuneration to teachers for examination work ?

PROF. S. NURUL HASAN : If the hon. Member had given specific notice, I would have been very glad to explain the reasons for this.

DR. RAMKRIPAL SINHA : This comes from the standards.

MR. CHAIRMAN : He has no information on that. Next question

586. [Transferred to the 16th December 1974.]

Drought and famine conditions due to deforestations

587. SHRI SYED NIZAM-UD-DIN & SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA : SHRI G. C. TOTU :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to take over the exploitation of forest wealth as the indiscriminate felling of trees is to a large extent responsible for frequent drought and famine conditions;

(b) what are the names of states which have taken over the exploitation of forests; and

(c) whether the Central Government propose to issue directions in this regard to such States as have not done so ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI ANNASAHEB P SHINDE) : (a) and (c) while not disputing indiscriminate felling of trees and its effects on eco-system, Centre has been making request to the States drawing their attention to the matter and its effect. Forestry, however, is a State subject and the Centre has no Statutory authority to issue directives-

The question was actually asked on the floor of House by Shri Syed Nizam-ud-din.

(b) There is a proposal in the 5th Five year Plan for setting up of Forest Development Corporations in most States and Union territories for exploitation and plantation of trees. These Corporations have been set up in various States. Himachal Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, U. P. & West Bengal, the Corporation in Maharashtra has started functioning.

SHRI SYED NIZAM-UD-DIN : Sir, I know that this is a State subject. I had asked, what is the policy of the Government of India *s-a-vis* the taking-over of the exploitation of forest wealth in the country ?

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE : In fact, the Government of India has adopted long time ago a Forest Policy Resolution and it has been contemplated that at least 33 per cent of the area in the country should be under forests, ten, where forest lands are there we would like to take them out for any other purpose.

But when it is due to some factors like the lands getting submerged or when it is cause of developmental activities and some objects are being undertaken, then, of course go beyond the control of the Government of India. As far as the exploitation of forest resources are concerned, the Government of India's policy is that the exploitation should be in a regulated and controlled way. Thirdly, wherever the raw material is being used for industrial purposes, the replantation has to be done in a planned way. This is particularly the Government of India's policy.

SHRIMATI SUMITRA G. KULKARNI: appreciate the fact that forest is a State subject. But still the vandalism that is going on in the forest areas, the rate at which our forest is felled and the forests are cut is something which is unbelievable with the result that is affecting our fauna and, at the same time, is affecting the climate of the country and erosion is taking place. It is such an important thing that it is not sufficient for the Government to say that this is a matter for the State Government. My request is : would the Minister consider the appointment of a special committee on forest preservation so that this thing is taken up on a war footing ? I would request the hon. Minister to consider appointment of a high-powered committee for afforestation and preservation of forests.

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE : I do not know how the intelligent hon. lady Member understood it that the Government of India is taking shelter under some constitutional provision. This reply was with regard to the constitutional aspect as to whether the directive can be issued and it is not that the Government of India does not want to play any role in it. I entirely agree with the concern expressed by the hon. lady Member that the deforestation which is taking place indiscriminately for various reasons is not desirable. We have a Board of Forestry. We are having annual meetings with the Forest Ministers of the States. I do not know whether any additional committee would serve the purpose because the issues are well known. I appreciate the concern of the hon. lady Member.

SHRIMATI SUMITRA G. KULKARNI: I appreciate what the Government is doing. But the trend for felling the forests is going on unabated during the last 25 years. Therefore, in order to focus the attention of the country, it is essential that a high-powered committee should be established.

MR. CHAIRMAN : He has clearly stated that there is no necessity for appointing a high-powered committee. The attention of the Government has been drawn sufficiently.

SHRIN.G.GORAY : I would like to ask two questions. I want to know whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to what is going on in U. P. The tribal people or the people who are residing in the hill areas near the foothills of Himalayas are resisting the attempts of the people who are felling the trees and there is a big movement going on in U. P. The Government is not backing the people who are preventing the felling of the trees. On the contrary, they are helping the contractors. I would like to know whether the Government has taken note of this fact and whether the Government has instructed the State Government to see to it that the forests are preserved. Secondly, Sir, it is all right to say that the forests should be preserved. But when there is no alternative fuel available to the people and whatever fuel like soft coke was available is dwindling, how is it possible to preserve the forests when the need of the people for felling the trees is increasing day by day.

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE : Sir, as far as the first part of the hon. Member's

query is concerned and the specific instances which he has quoted, we will be in touch with the State Government and find out what can possibly be done to control that. Broadly, in all the States, this is taking place. ...

SHRI N. G. GORAY : This is the problem. There is a tussel going on between the contractors and the people.

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE : Anyway, I will go into it. I will take it up with the State Government. But what I was mentioning is that contractors have caused an incalculable harm to our forests, and we think that there is need to eliminate them and put in corporations. Therefore, in reply to the question, I have mentioned that we propose to constitute corporations. Actually, six State Governments have gone ahead with this, and U.P. is one of them. The U.P. Corporation has been constituted. But this is a matter which will require further attention.

As far as fuel is concerned, what is really adversely affecting the forests is population pressure and because of population pressure, the availability of fuel resources is also affected. I think unless we succeed in evolving certain other energy resources which provide the necessary energy for cooking, etc., I don't think this problem can be easily solved. The other solution to that is that we encourage farm forestry so that trees are available which can be used as fuel without destroying our forest wealth.

SHRI SAWAISINGH SISODIA : Sir, according to the forest development programme of the Government of India, there was a scheme of farm forest-cum-fuel wood plantation. I would like to know the area that has been covered under this scheme during the last two years, and whether this scheme is still continuing or it has been dropped-

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE : No, Sir. This scheme is on. The only thing is that I have not got the precise figures with me now; it would be possible for me to give the figures to the hon. Member later.

डा० राम कृपाल सिंह : श्रीमान्, मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि देश में जो भूमि की सीमा लगी है और कुछ प्रदेशों में आर्बैंड्स पर भी सीमा लगी है और कुछ प्रदेशों में जो प्राइवेट फारेस्ट रहे हैं उन की भी सीलिंग हम कर रहे हैं, उसका जंगलों पर प्रभाव पड़ा है। तो क्या सरकार बतलायेगी कि जैड सीलिंग का जंगलों के काटे

जाने पर या आर्बैंड्स के काटे जाने पर क्या प्रभाव पड़ा है और कितने एकरेज में फारेस्ट्स और आर्बैंड्स समाप्त हुए हैं ?

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE : Sir, the ceiling laws are not intended to affect the forest areas. Ceiling laws are basically meant for agriculture though some of the State Governments have made these laws applicable to forest areas also. We have supported it for different reasons. But we want that the State Governments should not use those forest lands for any other purpose. But the forest under the private management is very limited because, out of the total area of 74.6 million hectares of forest in the country, only an area of 1.5 million hectares is under private forest. That means less than 2 per cent is under the private forest. Out of the rest, 95 per cent is under the State Governments and 3 per cent is under the corporate bodies. That means, 98 per cent is either government forest or forest owned by corporate bodies.

श्रीमती लक्ष्मी कुमारी खूँडावत : क्या यह सही है कि सरकार की नीति और पॉलिसी बन-राशि को बढ़ाने की है लेकिन नतीजा यह निकला है कि हमारी बन-राशि का ह्रास हो रहा है। क्या सरकार ने यह सर्वे किया है कि पिछले बीस सालों में कितने बन कटे हैं। बीस साल पहले कितने जंगल थे और अब कितने रह गये हैं ? क्या आप की जानकारी में है कि राजस्थान के एरिड जोन में, वैस्टन पाट में जो झाड़ियाँ आदि बढ़ा होती हैं उनकी जड़ों तक को निकाल कर वह सब जलाने के काम आ रहा है और इस प्रकार हजारों टन जड़े वहाँ जलाई जाती हैं और यदि वहाँ उन झाड़ियों को जड़े निकाल दी जायें तो वहाँ कोई नया पौधा नहीं होने वाला है क्या इस की जानकारी सरकार को है ?

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE : Sir, as I mentioned earlier, for instance, there is jhooming system in certain parts and because of that, the forests are damaged. And then there are some projects like the steel projects coming up in certain areas, and there is urbanization, etc. because of which there is deforestation. Roughly 3.4 million hectares of land has gone out of forests during the last 25 years, and the rate is broadly 0.15 million hectares annually. This should really cause us concern, and we are fully seized of the problem.

As far as deforestation or destruction of trees in Rajasthan is concerned, Rajasthan is a very important area and erosion of those lands by the desert can be prevented only if there is a

regular programme of afforestation in that area and it will have to be taken up with the co-operation of the State Government and the People as a whole. I think there is also need of increasing awareness in the people about the importance of afforestation and with that much could be done in Rajasthan. I hope the hon. lady Member herself will use her influence to help in that process.

श्री भैरों सिंह शेखावत : जैसा माननीय मंत्री ने स्वयं स्वीकार किया है कि कांटेक्टर्स ने फारेस्ट्स का बहुत ज्यादा नुकसान किया है, इस आधार पर मैं माननीय मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या सरकार इस प्रकार का कोई निर्णय ले सकती है जिसके आधार पर फारेस्ट का कटाई या फारेस्ट प्राइव्ण का निकालने का काम कांटेक्टर्स को न दिया जाकर केवल आदिवासियों को दिया जाए ?

इसके साथ ही मैं यह भी जानना चाहूँगा कि कांटेक्टर्स के माता में महाराष्ट्र में जमीन मिलने को दो गई, जैसे रेसंड मिलने को 10 हजार एकड़ जमीन फारेस्ट की दी है। उसी प्रकार चाय बोर्ड, स्टू बोर्ड फैक्ट्री लगाई जायें तो इन फेक्ट्रियों के लगाने के बाद फारेस्ट की कटाई लाज स्केल पर होती है। उससे ज्यादा नुकसान फारेस्ट का कोई नहीं कर सकता। इस आधार पर मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या सरकार नीति के रूप में इस बात को स्वीकार नहीं कर सकती कि फारेस्ट का कटाई का काम कांटेक्टर्स को किसी भी हालत में न दिया जाए और दिया जाए तो केवल आदिवासियों को ही दिया जाए ?

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE : Sir, our policy is very clear in this. First of all, we want to encourage co-operatives of the Adivasis and others in the forest areas so that first preference is given to co-operatives of tribals in the exploitation of forests. That is our policy. Secondly, I have mentioned that we propose to constitute public sector corporations. Steps have been taken already and some corporations have come into being. We want that instead of contractors these corporations should become active so that all these malpractices and other things to which the hon. Member has drawn our attention are eliminated. Then the hon. Member made a remark that in Maharashtra some forest area is being given to some private party. I would like to tell the hon. Member that this issue was very closely examined and because our country is dependent on import of wool, in order to conserve foreign exchange some project was approved for wool and in that area some grazing ground has been made available. But that does not mean that at the cost of the forest it is being done.

श्री भैरों सिंह शेखावत : महाराष्ट्र में या दूसरी जगह फारेस्ट्स को साफ कर दिया है ग्रेजिंग प्राइव्ण बनाने के लिए। फारेस्ट सारा का सारा काट दिया है, इसलिए मैं कह रहा हूँ।

MR. CHAIRMAN : That can be looked into.

श्री कल्प नाथ : क्या सरकार यह बताने की कृपा करेगी कि किसी देश के सरवाइवल के लिए जितने फारेस्ट की आवश्यकता है उतना हमारे देश में नहीं है। अगर नहीं है तो क्या सरकार के पास समयबद्ध योजना है हमारी फारेस्ट वैल्यू को बढ़ाने के लिए ?

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE : Sir, as I said, the Forest Policy Resolution which has been adopted as a national policy envisages 33 per cent but actually the area under forests in our country is about 22.7 per cent.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA : Every State Government has a department called "Afforestation Department". May I know how much new area has been brought under forestry by the activities of these "Afforestation Departments" of the different State Governments ?

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE : As I said earlier, I require notice to give precise figures. But in certain areas the activity is going on, like UP, Karnataka and a few other States. The precise figures are not with me and I need appropriate notice for that.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Next question.

श्री राजनारायण : श्रीमन् आप कहें तो एक सवाल मैं भी पूछूँ।

MR. CHAIRMAN : But you never asked what am I to do?

श्री राजनारायण : मैं यह जानना चाहूँगा सरकार से कि क्या सरकार के पास कोई योजना है जिससे कि सम्पूर्ण राज्यों के जो फारेस्ट डिपार्टमेंट है उनके पिछले 10 सालों का प्रकाउन्ट देखा जा सके और यह पता लगे कि किस कंटेक्टर और किस ठेकेदार को ठेका दिया गया और कितने का ठेका दिया गया क्या उतने ही पेड़ कटे ? अगर यह पता लगे कि उससे ज्यादा कटे तो क्यों कटे और क्या इसमें ठेकेदारों की गलती है या सरकार की, मंत्रियों ने या बड़े अफसरों ने उनसे पैसे खाकर उन ठेकेदारों को ज्यादा पेड़ काटे जाने की इजाजत दी ? मेरी अपनी निजी जानकारी है...

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have put the question. Let him reply

श्री राजनारायण : हमारी अपनी उत्तर प्रदेश की निजी जानकारी है कि वहाँ के मंत्रियों ने खूब पैसा खाया है।

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE : Sir, contractors have been indulging in some malpractices. This is the general information. But as far as the general problem raised by the hon. Member is concerned, if the hon. Member has any specific information about any politician or any other officer, we will be happy to go into it. He should give specific information.

श्री राजनारायण : हा, प्रायः अपनी जहीर मंत्रों के जमाने को देख लीजिए। उनमें मेरा प्रश्न और उत्तर भी देख लीजिए।

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE : But this is general information. He should give specific information.

MR. CHAIRMAN : He will look into it. Next question.

राजनीतिक दलों को सरकारी आवासों का आवंटन

*588. सरदार कुमार स० च० आंग्रे :

श्री जगदीश प्रसाद माथुर :

क्या निर्माण और आवास मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) दिल्ली में विभिन्न राजनीतिक दलों को उनके कार्यालयों के लिये, उनके कर्मचारियों के रिहायशी प्रयोजनों के लिये, अथवा अन्य किसी प्रयोजन के लिये आवंटित आवासों का व्यौरा क्या है और वह आवास कब से आवंटित किये गये हैं;

(ख) उपरोक्त आवासों में से प्रत्येक का मासिक किराया कितना है और प्रत्येक की आर किराये की कितनी राशि बकाया है; और

(ग) किस किस राजनीतिक दल ने भूमि अथवा आवास के आवंटन की मांग की है, इनमें से कौन-कौन सी मांग पूरी की जा चुकी है और कौन सी मांगें सरकार के विचाराधीन हैं अथवा कौन सी मांग अस्वीकृत की जा चुकी है और अस्वीकार किए जाने के क्या कारण हैं?

t] Allotment of Government accommodation to political parties *588. SHRI S. C.

ANGRE :

SHRI JAGDISH PRASAD MATHUR : Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state :

t] The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Jagdish Prasad Mathur. il] English translation.

(a) the details of the Government accommodation allotted in Delhi to different political parties for their offices or for the residential purposes of their employees or for any other purpose and the dates from which such accommodation has been allotted;

(b) the monthly rent of each premises so allotted and the amount of rent outstanding in each case; and

(c) what are the names of the political parties whose demand for allotment of land or accommodation have been rejected during the last three years or are still under Government's consideration ?]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI MOHAN DHARIA) : (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

†[निर्माण और आवास मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री मोहन धारिया) : (क) से (ग) एक विवरण पत्र सभा पटल पर रखा गया है। [देखिए परिशिष्ट 90, अनुपत्र संख्या 75]

श्री जगदीश प्रसाद माथुर : मंत्री महोदय से मैं यह जानना चाहूंगा कि राजनीतिक दलों को मकान देने की दृष्टि से कार्यालय और निवास दो श्रेणियों में विभाजन किया है इनमें आपने कौन सी नीति क्या काइटेरिया अपनाया है ?

[See Appendix XC, Annexure No. 751

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA : Sir, when this matter was first considered, the criteria that were applied were the recognition given to political parties by the Speaker and also by the Election Commission. Mainly, Sir, it is on the basis of the number of members belonging to these parties in Parliament that their

श्री जगदीश प्रसाद माथुर : आपने जो काइटेरिया बताया उससे लगता है आपने दो पार्टियों के साथ जानबूझ कर पक्षपात किया है उसमें एक भारतीय जनसंघ और दूसरी पार्टी सी०पी०एम० है। सी०पी०एम० की पार्टी को केवल एक कमरा दिया है और भारतीय जनसंघ को दो कमरे दिए हैं बिट्टल आई पटेल में। यह आपने 1968 में दिए थे और उसके बाद से हम लगातार तीसरे कमरे की मांग करते रहे लेकिन आपने यह कह कर मना कर दिया कि हमने प्रतिबंध लगा दिया। जो नानएग्जिस्टिंग पार्टीज हैं जिनका संसद में कोई प्रतिनिधित्व नहीं है उनको आपने जो कमरे दिए हैं उनको वापस लेने की क्या व्यवस्था requirement is taken into consideration.

t]] Hindi translation.