

In 2005, twenty years after it was created, it has become a *Khichdi* of hundreds of different things. Forests, wildlife and the environment are all part of a single department. Forest protection, conservation of all the wildlife in it, maintaining ecologically fragile areas and governing institutions for research, like the Indian Council for Forest Research and Education (ICFRE), Botanical Survey of India (BSI), Zoological Survey of India (ZSI), Wildlife Institute of India (WII), river cleaning operations, afforestation of land, coastal regulation Zones, eco-development, environmental research and education, the huge national River Conservation Directorate, hazardous substance management, pollution control boards, clean technologies, water quality monitoring, fly ash utilisation, climate change, externally aided projects, animal welfare matters, administration of zoos and global conventions are all part of the responsibilities of this Ministry.

Thus, the Ministry of Environment and Forests is burdened with innumerable activities with no connection to quality or content. The present structure and functioning of the Ministry of Environment and Forests is unacceptable. It needs to be sliced into two—a Ministry of Environment and a Ministry of Forests. I request the hon. Prime Minister to act quickly. Otherwise, the entire machinery that governs our natural world will remain stagnant and it would be a huge invitation to more nature disasters.

SHRIMATI HEMAMALINI (Nominated): Sir, I associate myself with the Special Mention made by Shri Thakurji. Thank you.

**Need to curb Television Channels and print media from spreading mis-information by bringing suitable Regulatory Mechanism**

SHRI C. PERUMAL (Tamil Nadu): Sir, the media, also known as the fourth estate, has gained immense popularity in the recent years, especially with the advent of cable television and the opening up of print and electronic media. People closely watch news telecast or read news published in the print media. In fact, they tend to believe such news and also take them to be authentic. Such an impression can be created by media.

However, certain television channels and print media are giving false news or conceal the correct and authentic information deliberately with a view to diminishing the image enjoyed by party in power. They, sometimes, tend to spread rumours, give half-information or leave it to viewers or readers

to speculate the correctness. They overdo this in the case of violent incidents of crime or natural disaster. Recently, Tsunami struck Tamil Nadu and other States caused a heavy damage in these States. But, the television channels choose to overdo it by creating unnecessary panic in the minds of the public and gave false report about the welfare and rehabilitation schemes undertaken on a massive scale by the Government of Tamil Nadu. But, when Tsunami struck Tamil Nadu, the Government of Tamil Nadu rose to the occasion and did a splendid work on a war-footing. The whole world, including the U.S.A. and Britain, has appreciated the efforts of the Government of Tamil Nadu in its rescue work.

The television channels and print media have chosen to spread misinformation which should be curbed effectively by bringing suitable regulatory mechanism. Thank you.

SHRI THANGA TAMIL SELVAN (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I associate myself with the Special Mention made by my colleague. Thank you.

SHRI S.S. CHANDRAN (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I also associate myself with the Special Mention made by Shri Perumal. Thank you.

SHRI S. ANBALAGAN (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I also associate myself with the Special Mention made by Shri Perumal. Thank you.

SHRI N.R. GOVINDRAJAR (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I associate myself with the Special Mention made by my friend, Shri Perumal. Thank you.

#### **Demand To mitigate power shortage in Maharashtra**

SHRI SANJAY RAUT (Maharashtra): Sir, as lakhs of students are preparing for SSC and HSC examinations, the State of Maharashtra is facing severe shortage of about 4,000 M.W. to 5,000 M.W. power, following two accidents at its power generation centres in Vidarbha, within a span of one week.

Sir, on 27th February, 2005, a fire broke out at Koradi Thermal Power Plant, near Nagpur, after a transformer burst. A 320 KW capacity sub-station caught fire, causing shutdown of the Koradi Plant. It resulted in a 2,100 MW power shortage and half of Maharashtra faced blackout. A day later, Khaparkheda Power Generation Centre, near Nagpur, developed a technical problem, causing a further 800 MW power shortage..