

cover is very low? Because, the experience in our State, Meghalaya, has been that the ban imposed by the Supreme Court has been very beneficial in a sense that within a few years after the ban, the forest cover has gone up. Is there any proposal to ban felling of trees in those States where the forest cover is low?

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Sir, there is already a ban on felling of trees. Unless and until, a working plan is there, there is a ban on felling of trees.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

### **WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS**

#### **Siding track from KRIBHCO to Hajira**

\*186. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:

SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether keeping in view the Industrial growth of the area around Hajira Port to its hinterland;

(b) whether Railways will consider extending the siding track of KRIBHCO up to Hajira; and

(c) if so, by when this work will be taken up?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) to (c) Although industrial development is taking place around Hajira Port, the decision about connectivity of port to hinterland and alignment of line through KRIBHCO (Krishak Bharati Cooperative Ltd.) siding or otherwise can only be taken after techno-economic feasibility study is done for the project. Such a study is being done on behalf of Gujarat Maritime Board by RITES (Rail India Technical & Economic Services).

#### **Expansion of Visakhapatnam Steel Plant**

\*192. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to expand the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant in Andhra Pradesh;