

परेशानियां हैं, उनको सुलझाने के लिए क्या कोई ऐसी योजना आपके पास है कि उनकी सहभागिता भी उसमें हो सके क्या कोई ऐसी योजना आपके बनाई है ?

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Sir, I require a separate notice for this.

### परती भूमि के विकास के लिए कृत्तिक बल

\*442. श्री राजीव रंजन सिंह 'ललन':†

श्री कपिल सिब्बल:

कृषि ग्रामीण विकास मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार ने देश में परती भूमि के विकास के लिए किसी कृत्तिक बल का गठन किया है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इस कृत्तिक बल का गठन कब किया गया था; इसके सदस्य कौन-कौन हैं और भूमि सुधार क्षेत्र में उनकी योग्यताएं क्या-क्या हैं; और

(ग) इस कृत्तिक बल को अपनी सिफारिशों कब तक प्रस्तुत करने के लिए कहा गया है ?

ग्रामीण विकास मंत्री (श्री एम० वेंकैया नायडू): (क) से (ग) एक विवरण सभा पटल पर रखा जाता है।

### विवरण

ग्रामीण विकास मंत्रालय में भूमि संसाधन विभाग ने विशेष रूप से परती भूमि के विकास के लिए नहीं अपितु बंजरभूमि/वाटरशेड के विकास के लिए ग्रहण संस्थाओं से संयोजन (लिंगेज) हेतु एक कार्यदल का गठन किया है।

इस कार्यदल का गठन 6 मार्च, 2002 को किया गया है और इसकी संरचना निम्नानुसार है:

1.	सचिव, ग्रामीण विकास मंत्रालय	अध्यक्ष
2.	अपर सचिव (भूमि संसाधन), ग्रामीण विकास मंत्रालय	सदस्य
3.	अपर सचिव तथा वित्तीय सलाहकार, ग्रामीण विकास मंत्रालय	सदस्य
4.	मुख्य कार्यकारी अधिकारी, इंडियन बैंक्स एसोसिएशन, मुंबई	सदस्य
5.	भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक का प्रतिनिधि	सदस्य
6.	राष्ट्रीय कृषि तथा ग्रामीण विकास बैंक (नाबाई) का प्रतिनिधि	सदस्य

†सभा में यह प्रश्न श्री राजीव रंजन सिंह 'ललन' द्वारा पूछा गया।

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| 7. | आयुक्त (ग्रामीण विकास), आंध्र प्रदेश सरकार            | सदस्य        |
| 8. | सचिव (ग्रामीण विकास), मध्य प्रदेश सरकार               | सदस्य        |
| 9. | संयुक्त सचिव (बंजरभूमि विकास), ग्रामीण विकास मंत्रालय | सदस्य-संयोजक |
- कार्यदल द्वारा अपनी रिपोर्ट तीन महीनों की अवधि के भीतर प्रस्तुत किए जाने की आशा है।

**Task Force for development of barren land**

†\*442. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':††  
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have constituted any Task Force for the development of barren land in the country;

(b) if so, when this Task Force was constituted, the names of its members and their qualifications in the field of land reforms; and

(c) by when, this Task Force has been asked to submit its recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU) : (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**Statement**

The Department of Land Resources in the Ministry of Rural Development have constituted a Task Force for linkage with Credit Institutions for Wastelands/ Watershed Development and not specifically for barren lands.

The Task Force, constituted on 6th March 2002, has the following composition :—

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|----|---|----------|
| 1. | Secretary, Ministry of Rural Development                            | Chairman |
| 2. | Addl. Secretary (Land Resources),<br>Ministry of Rural Development  | Member   |
| 3. | Addl. Secy. and Financial Adviser,<br>Ministry of Rural Development | Member   |
| 4. | Chief Executive Officer,<br>Indian Banks Association, Mumbai        | Member   |

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

††The question was actually asked on the floor of the house by Shri Rajiv Ranjan Singh 'Lalan'.

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| 5. | A Representative from Reserve Bank of India   | Member          |
| 6. | A Representative from National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD). | Member          |
| 7. | Commissioner (Rural Development), Govt. of Andhra Pradesh                           | Member          |
| 8. | Secretary (Rural Development), Govt. of Madhya Pradesh                              | Member          |
| 9. | Joint Secretary (Wastelands Development), Ministry of Rural Development             | Member Convenor |

The Task Force is expected to submit its report within a period of three months.

श्री राजीव रंजन सिंह 'लल्लन' : सभापति महोदय, सरकार ने अपने उत्तर में टास्क फोर्स गठित करने की सूचना दी है। उन्होंने जो सूची दी है, उसको देखने से ऐसा लगता है कि उसमें एक भी विशेषज्ञ शामिल नहीं है। दूसरी तरफ समाचार पत्रों में यह खबर आई है कि जो टास्क फोर्स बनाई गई है उसके पीछे उद्देश्य है—To involve corporate houses. 1980 के दशक में वेस्ट लैंड पर तत्कालीन डिप्टी चेरमैन मोहन धारिया की अध्यक्षता में भी एक कमेटी बनी थी जिसने अपनी रिपोर्ट दी थी। 2000 में सरकार ने उस रिपोर्ट को स्वीकार कर लिया है। मोहन धारिया कमेटी ने अपनी रिपोर्ट में यह लिखा था कि 329 मिलियन हेक्टेयर जमीन ज्योग्राफिकली क्षेत्र के मुताबिक जिसका आधा भाग वेस्टलैंड के रूप में है, एक्च्युअली मोहन धारिया कमेटी ने यह कहा है कि यह वेस्टलैंड नहीं वेस्टेड लैंड है। उन्होंने जो सुझाव दिया था, उस सुझाव के मुताबिक उनका यह कहना था कि अगर इसको कृषि के लिए उपयोग में लाया जाए तो अगले 15 वर्षों में हम करीब-करीब चार हजार मिलियन टन अनाज का उत्पादन कर सकते हैं। महोदय, सरकार से मुझे यह जानना है कि मोहन धारिया कमेटी ने जो रिपोर्ट दी है, जिसे सरकार ने स्वीकार भी कर लिया है, उसके क्या मुख्य बिन्दु थे और जो अभी टास्क फोर्स सरकार ने गठित किया है, उसके पीछे सरकार की क्या मंशा है और क्या उद्देश्य है?

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU : Mr. Chairman, Sir, as far as the Mohan Dharia Committee recommendations are concerned, it is a separate issue. But, still, since he has referred to the Committee's recommendations, I would like to say something. (*Interruption*)

The question is with regard to constitution of a Task Force. I have confined myself to the question of Task Force. The Task Force is mainly intended to identify dissemination of technology as well as identify the source of mobilisation of resources, because the task is huge. The amount required is also

large. Keeping that in mind, the idea is to involve even the private sector and also the financial institutions along with the NABARD. We have called a meeting. I myself was there in that, taking the initiative. I called the representatives of the Reserve Bank of India as also the NABARD and other bankers. We all sat together and we came to the conclusion that bankers also can make it a credit-worthy scheme, because so far, it was only funded by the Government. Our experience shows that wherever watershed projects and wasteland development schemes have been taken up, the yields are increasing and the farmers are also getting benefited. Keeping that and the need to have larger resources as also the limited resources at the disposal of the Government of India in mind, we have decided to approach bankers as also the financial institutions alongwith the corporate sector to see whether these people can be involved, if so, to what extent and in what manner they can be involved. All these and other things are to be identified by the Task Force and they will be giving a report within three months. Once the report comes, the Government would start acting on it further.

With regard to the Mohan Dharia Committee recommendations, its recommendations are very large. Reading them in the House will take time. I will pass it on to the hon. Member, or, if you direct me, I will place it on the Table of the House. We had a discussion with the hon. Prime Minister also on the 17th of this month. Mohan Dhariaji himself participated in that. We are in the process of discussing it further with regard to the implementation of some of the salient points he has made. alongwith the Task Force recommendations, we should also keep in mind the Mohan Dharia Committee recommendations and move forward.

The Wasteland Development Programme is partly with the State Government also, because it is a State subject. We have to take their permission. If at all the private sector has to come in, the States must accept them. Some States have come forward. The Tamil Nadu Chief Minister has given a statement; and the Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister also is moving in that direction. Some of the States like Maharashtra also are inclined to this. It is a larger issue and we are in touch with the State Governments. Once we come to some conclusion, then we will be able to inform the House.

श्री राजीव रंजन सिंह 'ललन' : सभापति महोदय, मोहन धारिया कमेटी की इस रिपोर्ट का अध्ययन तीन वर्षों तक प्लानिंग कमीशन में होता रहा और तीन वर्षों के अध्ययन के बाद सरकार ने उसको स्वीकार किया। मोहन धारिया कमेटी की रिपोर्ट को और जो अभी टास्क फोर्स गठित किया गया है इन दोनों को जब तक मिलाकर नहीं देखा जाएगा तब तक इस पर अंतिम निर्णय लेने का

[24 April, 2002]

RAJYA SABHA

मतलब है और जो अभी अखबारों में छप रहा है उससे ऐसा लगता है कि पूरे चैस्टलैंड को कॉरपोरेट सेक्टर के हवाले करने की तैयारी चल रही है। सरकार जब तक इन दोनों समितियों को एक साथ मिलाकर नहीं देखेगी तब तक वह कोई सही निर्णय उस पर नहीं ले सकेगी। मैं आपके माध्यम से माननीय मंत्री श्री से यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या सरकार इस टॉस्क फोर्स की रिपोर्ट को प्राप्त करने के बाद, मोहन धारिया कमेटी की जो रिकमण्डेशन्स हैं, उनको साथ मिलाकर, उसके अनुरूप फैसला करने का विचार रखती है?

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU : Sir, I totally agree with the hon. Member, unless we combine both, the recommendations of the Task Force and the recommendations of the Mohan Dharia Committee, we will not be able to achieve our goal. But let me make it very clear and state categorically that there is no question of handing over the total wasteland to the corporate sector. There is no such proposal and there is no thinking at all. Wherever the corporate sector is showing interest, wherever the State Governments are interested and wherever the resources are not available with the States or the Centre, then only the private sector comes into the picture. I can share with the House the information as far as wasteland and watershed programmes are concerned. We already have the Drought Prone Area Development Programme, DPAP. We have the Desert Development Programme, DDP. We also have the Integrated Wasteland Development Programme, IWDP. Sir, in 1971 blocks in 813 districts in 16 States the DPAP is going on. The DDP is going on in 234 blocks in 40 districts of 7 States. In the remaining blocks, where the DPAP and DDP are not there, the IWDP is being implemented. We have also taken care to see that certain suggestions given by Mohan Dhariaji are incorporated in the guidelines that have been communicated to the various State Governments. As rightly suggested by the hon. Member, I shall keep the recommendations made by the Mohan Dharia Committee in view when we take a final decision with regard to the Task Force's recommendations that are going to come before the Government.

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL : Sir, the hon. Minister is aware of the fact that it was after three years of intense deliberations that the Mohan Dharia's Committee Report was accepted by this Government in 2000. We are in the year 2002. First of all, it has taken this Government two years to set up a Task Force. The hon. Minister should indicate to us as to why it has taken two years to set up a Task Force. The second question that I wish to put to the hon. Minister is this. Now, the Land Resource Department of the Ministry of Rural Development itself has been allocated a fund of Rs. 1000 crores to deal with this particular issue. Does the Minister think that this 329 million hectares of land can be taken care of

with the kind of funds that are available with the Government and the financial institutions? Since this Government has already indicated that they are going to involve the corporate houses, will the hon. Minister tell this House as to what will be the policy guidelines on the basis of which there will be involvement of the corporate houses, in what manner will that involvement be brought to fusion, what kind of investments are being made by the financial institutions and what kind of investments are being expected from the corporate sector houses?

SHRI M. VENKAI AH NAIDU: Sir, the hon. Member has raised a very pertinent question whether this allocation of Rs. 1000 crores that has been made to the Land Resource Department is sufficient to take care of the 329 million hectares of degraded or wasteland. The answer will be an emphatic 'No'. At the same time, as you know, Sir, "जितना आद्य उतनी रोटी" Whatever money is being made available, we can only spend that much money. We have also been pursuing with the Planning Commission for additional allocations. I must point out here to the credit of this Government that earlier allocation was originally Rs. 300 crores. From Rs. 300 crores, it went up to Rs. 600 crores and then it further went up to Rs. 900 crores. This year the Planning Commission and the Finance Minister were kind enough to allocate Rs. 1000 crores. Even this allocation of Rs. 1000 crores is not sufficient. I agree with him openly. Keeping that in mind, I myself have taken an initiative to set up a Task Force. I myself went to Mumbai and sat with the NABARD people, called all these bankers and financial institutions to find out ways and means for involving the financial institutions. Up to now, funding was only from the Government of India and the State Governments. Earlier it was 50:50, 50 per cent by the States and 50 per cent by the Centre. Now we have changed the formula—75 per cent by Centre and 25 per cent by the States. As all of us are aware, the resources at the disposal of the States are very limited. Keeping that in mind, certain State Governments have given an indication that they are willing to accept private participation also. Private participation does not mean the corporate sector. Private participation means even five or ten farmers can come together, from an association and can take credit as well as subsidy-credit from the financial institutions and subsidy from the Government. They will give the guarantee in regard to repayment. That is private participation. With regard to corporate involvement, I submit that the matter is being discussed with the States. No decision has been taken; I cannot give any categorical reply with regard to the modalities, because the discussions are on and we have not come to any definite conclusion so far.

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**SHRI KAPIL SIBAL :** Sir, now, the financial institutions themselves are in the red. You know the state of the IDBI. You know the state of the IFCI. How are you going to involve the financial institutions which do not have enough financial resources, to lend even to the other sectors of the economy? How do you expect any kind of resources from these financial institutions to deal with this 329 million hectares of land? Or, is it just another scheme on paper?

**SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU :** Sir, when this Government took over, the total credit that was given to the rural sector was of the order of Rs.40,000 crores. Now, this year, the Finance Minister, in his Budget Speech, had announced that the credit to this sector is going to be Rs.75,000 crores. This is point number one.

The second point is: I may also inform the hon. Member that NABARD is the funding agency for rural development and the percentage of recovery from the rural sector, particularly from self-help groups, etc., is to the tune of 98 per cent. So, the experience with the corporate sector may be different. I do not want to go into those details. It is not my domain. But, at the same time, an ordinary village farmer, a rural poor, if given a proper guidance, is in a position to repay the loans that he has taken, promptly. Keeping that in mind, we are now interacting with the financial institutions. That is why I have included representatives from the Indian Banks' Association, RBI and NABARD under the leadership of my Secretary. Sir, within three months, the Committee would come out with its report with regard to the feasibility, practicability, of all these things. After that, I will share that information with the House.

**PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM :** Sir, may I know from the hon. Minister, what are the Terms of Reference given to the Task Force set up, on the basis of the recommendation of the Mohan Daria Commission? In the composition of the Task Force, you will find some financial agencies and some experts on rural development. But there are no experts from the irrigation side or experts who are involved in rainwater harvesting or experts who are working on wasteland development. Will the Minister consider including these experts in the Task Force?

**SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU :** Mr. Chairman, Sir, setting up of the Task Force and Mohan Daria Committee's recommendations are altogether different. This is an initiative taken by the Ministry.

Secondly, the Terms of Reference given to the Task Force are : To involve the credit and financial institutions; to encourage and promote private involvement in wasteland development to see that the technology is disseminated below; to find out what are the success stories in certain areas

where some participation has taken place; and, to identify other sources of finances, for successful implementation of this programme. The representatives of the Finance Ministry, Rural Development, Indian Banks' Association, Reserve Bank of India, NABARD, Commissioner, Rural Development, Government of Andhra Pradesh, Secretary, Rural Development Government of Madhya Pradesh, Joint Secretary, Wasteland Development are, all members of this Task Force. It has got a very limited objective of identifying ways and means of mobilising resources, credit, and also involvement of the private sector, to the extent possible. This is a limited purpose for which this Task Force has been set up.

The next point is with regard to the suggestion on rainwater harvesting. There is a separate programme for this. We have communicated this to all the States that they can utilise the money and also the foodgrains, under the Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana, for this, and that top priority should be given to rainwater harvesting projects in the rural areas.

With regard to the hon. Member's suggestion of inclusion of experts from related fields, as members of the Task Force, I submit that the question does not arise, simply because of the reason that it is related to credit mobilisation.

**श्री मोती लाल बोरा :** माननीय सभापति महोदय, मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूँ कि मोहन धारिया समिति की जो रिपोर्ट आयी, उस रिपोर्ट के आने के लगभग तीन साल के बाद आपने इस टास्क फोर्स का गठन किया है। इस टास्क फोर्स के गठन की आवश्यकता क्यों पड़ी? यदि मोहन धारिया समिति की रिपोर्ट में वही बातें थीं, जिसे टास्क फोर्स के माध्यम से आप अर्जित करना चाहते हैं, तो उसकी क्या आवश्यकता थी? उसके साथ-साथ 184 जिलों में बंजर भूमि के कार्यक्रम चल रहे हैं। मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूँ कि जो राशि का आबंटन पहले हुआ, 300 करोड़ वित्त मंत्रालय ने दिया। उसके बाद 600 करोड़ की राशि दी गयी, फिर 900 करोड़ का आबंटन किया गया और अब जाकर एक हजार करोड़ की राशि का आबंटन उसमें हुआ है।

क्या माननीय मंत्री महोदय यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि जिस राशि का आबंटन हुआ, उसमें कितना उपयोग मोहन धारिया समिति की रिपोर्ट के आने के बाद हुआ?

**SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU :** With regard to the Terms of Reference; and also with regard to the need to appoint a Committee and the so-called delay, I had earlier made it clear that both these things are different. It is an ongoing process. It had suggested certain recommendations, and the Government is implementing those recommendations. At the same time, the Task Force was appointed to identify arid activities and appropriate technologies in a regionally-differentiated manner, and also to have a requisite policy



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environment that needs to be put in place, to encourage and promote private involvement in wasteland development through the mobilisation of additional resources. In the case of the Watershed Development Scheme, the Task Force will also identify the borrowers, spell out recovery arrangements and also methods of sensitisation of the user communities to the financial discipline, and will indicate the manner of cross subsidisation of the responsibility towards the repayment, in order to best address the issues of poverty, backwardness, enhancement of quality of rural livelihood, in a holistic, Participatory and eco-friendly manner. This is the limited objective of the Scheme.

Secondly, with regard to the question raised by hon. Shri Moti Lal Vohraji, I don't have, as of now, any details of exactly how much money was spent since the acceptance of this report. I will give the details to the hon. Member later on. But, with regard to the allocation of money to the various programmes, details are available with me. If you want, I will read it out. Otherwise, I will pass it on to the hon. Member.

SHRI P.G. NARAYANAN : The Tamil Nadu Government had launched a Wasteland Development Scheme and Research Scheme for which 20 lakh hectares of wasteland will be taken up for cultivation. Every Year, they are taking four lakh hectares of wasteland for cultivation. It involves a huge expenditure. Now, the Tamil Nadu Government is facing financial crunch. Sir, I would like to know whether the Government is ready to give any financial grant to encourage this kind of good scheme or not. (*Interruptions*)

श्री सुरेश पचौरी : बिजली की तरह आंख मिचौली खेल रही है सरकार।

श्रीमती सरल माहेस्वरी : जो ऐबनॉर्मल है, वही आपके यहां नॉर्मल है। आप ऐबनॉर्मल को नॉर्मल करने की कोशिश कर रहे हैं, यही आपकी त्रासदी है।

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU : Power coming in and power going out is a former practice. (*Interruptions*) जो हमको विरासत में मिला है, हम उसी को अनुभव कर रहे हैं। हम सुबह से शाम तक पावर पैदा नहीं कर सकते। Sir, according to the NRICI, out of 329 million hectares of total geographical land, only 63.85 million hectares are treatable. This fact has also to be kept in mind by the hon. Members. This land is spread over in different parts of the country. I am happy that the Tamil Nadu Government has taken an initiative and they want to go all out for the regeneration of wasteland. As you are aware, the finances of the Centre are limited and the finances of the State are also limited. We are finding ways and means to help the State Governments, wherever they are coming forward. I have

also seen in newspapers, but I am yet to get a final confirmation that the Tamil Nadu Government is interested to involve the private sector also. As far as the Centre is concerned, we will be trying to impress upon the financial institutions to help them to the maximum extent possible so that the land can be brought under cultivation and it could be treated. I cannot give a firm 'yes' to the request made for an outright grant.

SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN : Sir, appointing a Task Force for the Wasteland Development and Watershed Management Programmes has been a positive move. But, this Task Force consists only of bureaucrats. We have seen that there is a total inclination towards the involvement of the NGOs in the implementation of this Watershed Management and Wasteland Development Programmes, but the actual beneficiaries and Panchayati Raj Institutions have not been taken into confidence. This is the main lacuna, which we are facing. So, what steps are being taken by the Government to ensure that the scheme is implemented through the beneficiary Committees of the farmers as well as the Panchayati Raj institution?

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Sir, I am not able to clear the confusion, The limited purpose of the Task Force is only to identify the sources of mobilisation, technology transfer, etc. So far as the Wasteland Development Programme is concerned, the programme is already on. I agree with the hon. Member that our entire approach and also the thrust of the Mohan Dharia Committee are to involve more and more the Panchayati Raj Institutions. We have given powers to the *Zila Parishad* to identify the PIA, the Project Implementing Agency of Watershed Users' Association, or the, representatives of the Panchayat in that particular area of operation. So, naturally the Government, at the Centre and also in the States, are interested in involving the Panchayati Raj institutions at down below, alongwith the NGOs-we call it the PIA, the Project Implementing Agency. A noted NGO, with sufficient experience and a good track record, can be identified by the *Zila Parishad*, and if they recommend them as the PIA, we accept that. That is how we are involving the voluntary sector as well as the local bodies in the implementation of this programme.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDI: Sir, the word 'Task Force' itself is very powerful-Task force for reclaiming the barren land in the country. So, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether there is any proposal to use the wasteland in the forest area also. Secondly, is there any proposal to allow coffee plantations in East Godavari and Vishakhapatnam districts of Andhra Pradesh,

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with reference to 2713/N/CMP/98, dated 29.10.1999? I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he is allowing coffee plantations under this scheme with the help and advice of the Task Force. Thirdly, what is the ultimate aim of the Rural Development Minister? How are you, going to use the wasteland in the country? If he succeeds in using the entire barren land, our prosperity would go up like anything. No doubt, our resources are limited. But I would like to have a White Paper, a sort of blueprint, before the House, as to what is your future scheme, how you are going to use the land.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the forest areas are dealt with separately by the Ministry of Environment and Forests. The issue of allowing coffee plantation in forest areas is being dealt with by the Ministry of Environment and Forests. That does not come under my purview. Though this is a separate issue, I thought I should respond to it because the hon. Member is putting his maiden question.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: No; no. It is not so. I am asking whether the Task Force is going to consider permitting coffee plantations in forest areas as an exemption. I do know it is dealt with by the Ministry of Environments and Forests. But, because of the Task Force, I think it still comes under the Ministry of Rural Development.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Time and again, I have been stressing that the limited objective of the Task Force is to identify the various resources, including taking help from the of hon. Member. Dr. T. Subbarami Reddy, who is rich enough to fund some of these schemes. (*Interruptions*) So far as bringing under cultivation the remaining part of the degraded land is concerned, it is a huge challenge. The Government of India is alive to that challenge. That is why the allocation has been increased. Some of the States, as I mentioned, are also showing interest, because ecological balance is also an equally important aspect, environment is also an important aspect, and vegetation is also an important aspect. Keeping all these things in mind, we are trying to approach the financial institutions, in relation to private participation also. (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: That's all right. Mr. Chaturvedi.

SHRI T.N. CHATURVEDI: Mr. Chairman, Sir, this is a very important scheme. The Minister deserves commendation for the efforts that he is making in this reagrd. ... (*Interruptions*) ...

SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: It has already taken much time, Sir. There are other important questions also. ... (*Interruptions*) ...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, Yes. ... (*Interruptions*) ...

SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Sir, this question has already taken more than 30 minutes. ... (*Interruptions*) ...

MR. CHAIRMAN: There are ten more Members who want to put supplementaries question. So, I will have to skip them. ... (*Interruptions*) ... Yes, yes.

SHRI T.N. CHATURVEDI: Sir, as has been said, this pertains to development. The Minister has clarified that this Task Force has a limited objective of identifying, first, the linkage with the credit institutions or the resource availability. While replying to one of the questions, he mentioned about the question of technology, and he also used the word 'participatory'. That is why my question to him, through you, Sir, is : what kind of a mechanism has been worked out by the Ministry to ensure the participation of the State Governments? What kind of a mechanism has been worked out with regard to identifying the areas and with regard to monitoring the implementation of a scheme? Part (b) of my question is: what efforts are being made to see that the local variations are also taken into account? I am putting this question because many of the schemes that were undertaken earlier and which have been mentioned by the hon. Minister, have either failed or did not achieve the desired results. Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Task Force which has been set up, looks too much officialised. Therefor, I would like to suggest to the hon. Minister that somebody who is having experience of working in any NGO or in any public organisation and who has dealt with making credits available to these institutions is also associated with this report so that they could know as to where the shoe pinches.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Sir, the Task Force is half-way through its work. In another one month, it is supposed to give its report. I also agree with the hon. Member that the Government should take the views of the people or volunteers who have enough experience with regard to credit mobilisation. I shall keep it in mind. I will also interact with them and take their inputs. With regard to part (a) of the question, that is, the involvement of the State Governments, I would say that the identification of the watershed areas is basically done by the State Government, through the district administration, which is under its control. Secondly, the *Zila Parishad*, under DRDA, is responsible for the implementation of the schemes. Thirdly, the Gram Panchayats are supposed to be made known as to what programmes are going on in their villages, and they are supposed to put up a sign board with regard to total allocation of money, extent of acreage that is covered under the scheme, time duration, etc. Fourthly, the project implementation agency can be either a

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Panchayati Raj institution or a voluntary organisation. Fifthly, with regard to regional variations, that has been mentioned by the hon. Member, we have issued some guidelines. Some of these guidelines are: Preference should be given to those districts, where not even a single project has been undertaken. While sanctioning a new project, it has to be kept in mind that the districts where no project has been undertaken, are given priority. Secondly, priority has to be given to areas having large wasteland areas. Thirdly, low priority be accorded to districts having two or more ongoing projects. These are the broad guidelines.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question No. 443.

**Delegations/NHRC's visit to Gujarat**

\*443. SHRI RAJU PARMAR:†

SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of teams/delegations and Ministers have visited the various parts of Gujarat to make on-the-spot assessment of damage during the recent riots;

(b) whether National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) have also visited the State;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) what are the details of report submitted by each group; and

(e) what is the reaction of Government on the reports submitted by those groups/delegations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**Statement**

(a) to (e) A number of teams/delegations including:

(i) An all-party delegation led by Union Minister Shri Pramod Mahajan, accompanied by Smt. Sonia Gandhi, Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha and others;

(ii) National Human Rights Commission led by its Chairman Mr. Justice J. S. Verma;

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†The Question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Raju Parmar.