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Protected Areas for satisfying the needs for grazing, collection of fuel, fodder and other NTFPs and also for regularization of forest encroachments. These pressures are likely to extend further which may have adverse impacts on ecological equilibrium.

Economic Development and Forest Resources

Economic boom has encouraged the neo rich to go for imported wood and wood products. There is an increasing trend on import of forest products without any commensurate efforts to develop national natural resources. Instead of self-sufficiency in availability of forest products and conservation of natural resources the country is in fact depending heavily on import of forest products. Some of the countries in the region (e.g. Indonesia), which allowed liberal export of timber logs a few years ago has restricted the export to, processed wood. There is another example of economic boom translated into enriching forest resources. In China for example the national government allotted additional \$5 bn to improve forest resources to control the dust storm and floods. Such national priorities in the Indian context are required to rejuvenate the depleting forest resources. Indian forestry was well recognized for its progressive outlook as was reflected in the formulation of post independent forest policy of 1952 and then in the revised version of 1988. Much is required to be done to reverse the present trend of depletion of forest resources. Loss of forests will affect the availability of NTFPs and the 'safety net'.

KP/HB

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