

33. Secondly, it calls for discouragement in diverted of good and productive agricultural lands to forestry in view of the need for increased food production. Please state the steps taken in this regard.

*No agricultural land has been diverted for forestry.*

34. According to the forest policy, for conservation of total biological diversity, the network of national parks, sanctuaries, biospheres reserves and other protected areas should be strengthened and extended adequately. What plans have the State Govt implemented in this connection? Has the establishment of such parks, sanctuaries, protected areas etc involved (a) acquisition of land and, if so, its extent and where? (b) Displacement of tribal families and if so, their number. What measures for rehabilitation undertaken for the displaced families.

*There are 96 sanctuaries, 6 National Parks and one Biosphere in A&N islands. No tribal has been displaced by the constitution of these Protected Areas.*

35. The experience is that the condition of tribal or other forest people living in the national parks, sanctuaries, reserves and protected areas in worse than others. The common feeling is that the animals in these areas are treated better than them. It is understood that in case attack by Wild life, compensation and/or insurance are payable and what is the quantum? Which categories have been left out and why? Please explain the state of affairs in this regard in your state.

*There are no tribals or other people living inside Protected Areas, except a few encroachments. No incident of attack by wildlife on these people living inside protected areas has been reported. In village area, if attacks occur, compensation is paid from LG's Relief Fund. A Scheme has also been proposed.*

36. Fourthly, according to the policy provision of sufficient fodder, fuel and pasture, specially in areas adjoining forests, is necessary in order to prevent depletion of forest beyond the sustainable limit and that since fuel wood continues to be the predominant source of energy in rural areas, the programme of afforestation should be intensified with special emphasis on augmenting fuel wood production to meet the requirement of rural people. The Commission would like to know the following (a) action taken by the State Govt to augmentation depletion of fodder, fuel, and pastures continues (c) whether any programme of afforestation has been taken up for increase in fuel wood production.

*There is an afforestation scheme namely Extension of Forest to increase the fodder, fuel wood production in tribal area and other villages to prevent depletion of forests beyond the sustainable limit, since fuel wood is only source of energy in the tribal area/villages. This scheme is continued in the Xth Plan in order to increase the production of fuel wood in tribal area.*