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Plans to keep Camerons cool

Palanivel: Clearing of trees reason behind temperature increase

Reports by **EILEEN NG** and **YUEN MEIKING**

THE Environment and Natural Resources Ministry will try and restore the cool weather in Cameron Highlands by replanting trees on cleared hills.

Its minister Datuk Seri G. Palanivel said one of the reasons behind the increase in temperature on the highland was due to the clearing of trees by local farmers.

"This is why the Forest Research Institute of Malaysia will replant trees, but we need to identify which ones are suitable for the climate on the highlands," he said when replying to a supplementary question from M.Kulasegaran (DAP-Ipoh

Barat) during question time.

"My ministry will take this step to improve the weather and restore the temperature."

Kulasegaran had pointed out that the difference in temperature between Ipoh and Cameron Highlands was small and that the highland was no longer cool.

On tourist arrivals in Cameron Highlands, Palanivel admitted that the numbers had declined and added that even the number of Malaysians holidaying there had decreased.

"I will discuss with the Tourism and Culture Minister on how we can promote local tourism in Cameron

Highlands," he said.

On illegal land clearing on the hills, Palanivel said he planned to set up a non-governmental organisation to tackle the problem.

This is why the Forest Research Institute of Malaysia will replant trees, but we need to identify which ones are suitable for the climate.

—DATUK SERI G. PALANIVEL

