We, the people of the North of Iran, are thinking about one thousand and one problems of our lives. How many of us think about forests?

The area of forests of the North has been decreased to half in comparison to 40 years ago. It is even said that there will be no jungle left in the North of Iran.

The jungles in the North of Iran are known as Hyrcanian forest which dates back to the third periodical geological history called Cenozoic. The old trees on Hyrcanian jungles are considered living fossils of the world.

The area of jungles in the North of Iran which was over 3,800,000 acres in 1963 has been reduced to some 1,200,000 acres today. According to the statistics of the Organization of Forest and Rangeland of Iran, over 40 acres of jungles are deforested in the North of Iran.

When we settled here to build our cities, the plain jungle was located between the central forests and the Caspian Sea. The amount of plain jungles was striking in the maps dating back to reign of Naser al-Din Shah over 150 years ago. Even in the beginning of the Pahlavi era in the map dating back to the year 1937, the cities of the North were not so considerably expanded. At the end of Pahlavi dynasty, the strange expansion of cities started. The fresh air of mountain and the pleasures of the North on one side, and the weak supervision on constructions as well as different benefit-seeking turned the forests of the North to the gold. The nature and forests of the North were forgotten, and the garden alleys turned to a far memory.

Sometime ago, it was decided by the Natural Resources Organization to put a break on exploiting jungles of the North for 10 years. Setting provision and decreasing the amount of exploitation of jungles in order to save the jungle of the North was proposed. But the follow-up of that idea was a trouble by itself and the plan was given up, and remained silent.