

1	2	3
17.	Kalakad- Mundanthurai	(Tamil Nadu) 22
18.	Valmiki	(Bihar) 81
Total		1327

Environment Courts

1015. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA:
SHRI SHEOSHARAN VERMA:
SHRI PARASRAM BHARD-
WAJ:
SHRI YASHWANTRAOPATIL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to set up Environment Courts;

(b) if so, what is the contemplated structure of these courts and on what lines they are to function; and

(c) what would be the qualifications and requisite background for the judges of these courts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI):
(a) to (c). Government have not taken any final decisions in this regard.

Time-Scale Promotion to Short Service Commissioned Officers

1016. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA:
Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Short Service Commissioned Officers in Army Medical Corps are allowed time-scale promotion before they are relieved from the Commission;

(b) if not, whether this rule or practice existed in the past and the reasons for its discontinuation; and

(c) whether Government propose to review it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. RAJA RAMANNA): (a) and (b). Short Service Commissioned Officers in the Army Medical Corps are granted promotion only upto the rank of Major.

Prior to 4.4.1985, promotion to the rank of Major was granted to eligible S.S.C. Officers after six years' reckonable service as Captain. At present, this period is five years including the benefit of ante-date for additional qualifications.

(c) No, Sir.

Gun Salute Towards V.V.I.P. during Republic Day Parade

1017. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA:
Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Vijayanta and some

T-72 Tanks made a departure from the established practice of the last few years and turned the guns towards the VVIP dias to salute the President during the Republic Day Parade this year instead of dipping the guns in their original position as per practice;

(b) whether turning the guns towards the VVIPs before dipping the barrels to salute is considered a security risk; and

(c) if so, the reasons for this departure from practice?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. RAJA RAMANNA): (a) to (c). As per practice, during ceremonial parades, armoured fighting vehicles turn their turrets to the right and dip their guns in a salute to the VIP. This was the practice in all Republic Day Parades till 1985. After a lapse of five years, the traditional practice of salute was restored in the Republic Day Parade 1990. There was no security risk in this as the firing mechanism of these armoured fighting vehicles had been neutralised prior to the Parade and all other normal security precautions taken.

Nuclear Power Plant in Kerala

1018. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN:

SHRI T. BASHEER:
PROF. P.J. KURIEN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up Nuclear Power Plant in Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any report has been received on the possible health hazards in setting up a Nuclear Power Plant; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT (PROF. M.G.K. MENON): (a) and (b). At present there is no plan to set up a nuclear power plant in Kerala. However, the Kerala Government have proposed certain sites in Kerala for location of nuclear power plant, which are being examined as part of ongoing site investigations consistent with the long term nuclear power programme.

(c) and (d). No separate report on the possible health hazards for setting up of the nuclear power plant in Kerala has been received. A number of studies of epidemiological nature have been carried out in countries like USA, UK, France and Germany to find out if there are any effects on the health of radiation workers of nuclear power plants or in the population living in the vicinity of it. The major conclusions from review of these reports can be summarised as follows:—

- (1) Mortality rates and cancer deaths among workers in the nuclear power plants are no different than for general population in that area.
- (2) There is no evidence of increase in cancer deaths among the population living in the proximity of nuclear power plant.
- (3) Only in case of two sites, a slight increase in childhood leukaemia is reported. These are Sellafeld and Dounrey in UK where Re-processing Plants are also in operation for long time. These studies are still in progress. It seems that the observed excess could be explained by: