

down Tehri Hydro Project (U.P.) or to review project policy in view of rehabilitation of oustees and future Environmental Hazards;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government in this regard;

(c) the funds have been spent on this project so far;

(d) whether the Government have not taken into consideration the confidence of NGO's/ other agencies working for Environment before finalising the project; and

(e) the alternative arrangement made by the Government to solve the problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) to (e). Government had got examined, in detail, all aspects of Tehri Dam Hydro-electric Project by various experts committees, before the approval for the execution of the Tehri Hydroelectric Project Stage-I (1000 MW), ongoing commitments for Koteshwar Hydroelectric Project (400 MW) and essential works of Tehri Pump Storage Plant (1000 MW) was accorded in March, 1994. The construction activities at the Project site are continuing uninterruptedly and the coffer dam has been raised to a height of EL 660 metres. An expenditure of Rs. 1066 crores (Provisional) has been incurred on the Project upto June, 1996.

Shri Sunderlal Bahuguna went on fast in April, 1996 demanding review of the Tehri Dam Project. To facilitate a proper solution to the problem. Government has agreed to provide all facilities to examine the relevant scientific and technical reports and other information relating to the safety of the Tehri Dam by a group of four experts suggested by Shri Bahuguna. These experts have since been requested to examine the relevant reports and make available their recommendations for careful consideration by Government for ensuring that all necessary steps are taken to ensure the safety of the dam.

Government has also shown its willingness to have the ecological aspects, including its impact on the people of the area and resettlement of displaced persons examined by another group of experts including those nominated by Shri Bahuguna. Shri Bahuguna who broke his fast on 25th June, 1996, has since been requested to nominate 2-3 experts for the purpose.

#### National Hydro-Electric Power Corporation

\*8. SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Hydro-Electric Power Corporation Limited had made any suggestion to

the Government to harness the Hydro-electric potential of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the assessed hydroelectric potential of the country at present and the actual power generation in this sector;

(d) whether the Government has formulated any long term/short term policy to harness the hydroelectric potential; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e). The total hydro power potential assessed by Central Electricity Authority is 84,044 MW (at 60% load factor) corresponding to an installed capacity of around 1,49,000 MW. Out of the potential, 12477.40 MW at 60% load factor has been developed. Thus, out of the total hydro power potential available in the country, 22.27% has been developed or is under development. The installed capacity of hydroelectric stations in the country at present is 20991.59 MW and the generation in 1995-96 was 72.51 billion units.

Amongst the measures taken to develop the hydroelectric potential are, setting up of hydroelectric corporations, including National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC), higher allocation of plan resources, including budgetary support and special incentives for hydroelectric projects which shall commence commercial generation on and after 1st January, 1997.

#### Rare Medicinal Plants

\*9. SHRI R.B. RAI : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any agency/ arrangement to directly look after the preservation of rare medicinal plants found in the forests;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, whether the Government have realised the urgency for setting up of such responsible agencies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The State Forest and Wildlife Departments are directly responsible for the preservation of rare medicinal plants found in forests. All medicinal plants occurring in forest areas are covered by the provisions of the Indian Forests Act, 1927 and those