

Site Museum and a Sub-office at Jajpur, Orissa

*195. **Shri Anadi Charan Das** : Will the Minister of Human Resource Development be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any demand for setting up a 'Site Museum' and a Sub-office at Jajpur for Archaeological Survey of India in Cuttack district of Orissa for better upkeep and preservation of ancient monuments of Buddhist and Jainism in importance; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

The Minister of Human Resource Development (Shri Arjun Singh) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) (i) The Government are unable to consider the demand to set up a site museum until land is available.

(ii) It is not considered necessary to open a sub-circle office at Jajpur at present.

Pollution in Bombay and Thane

*196. **Prof. Ram Kapse** : Will the Minister of Environment and Forests be pleased to state :

(a) the number of tribal people affected in Thane area due to pollution; and

(b) the measures taken to reduce or control the pollution in Bombay and Thane areas?

The Minister of State of the Ministry of Environment and Forests (Shri Kamal Nath) : (a) There are no reports of any widespread effect of pollution on the tribal population in Thane area. However, there is a report of 38 persons and 445 cattle being affected due to metal poisoning in one case.

(b) The following measures have been taken to control pollution in Bombay and Thane areas :

(i) Ambient air and water quality standards have been prescribed.

(ii) Standards for air and water polluting industries have been prescribed under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

(iii) Environmental guidelines have been evolved for siting and operation of industries.

(iv) The Central Government has prepared a time-bound action plan for control of pollution, in consultation with the State Government, under which polluting units are required to meet the standards by 31st December, 1991.

Delegation of Powers to States under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980

*197. **Shri Sushil Chandra Verma** : Will the Minister of Environment and Forests be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government propose to delegate to States the powers under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 to grant permission for cutting of trees in forest lands for developmental projects and also to keep out of the purview of the Act such projects initiated prior to October 25, 1980 without insisting on compensatory afforestation :

(b) whether the delay in granting such permission has over run the cost of the projects :

(c) whether the Union Government now propose to grant the permission at the earliest for the purpose ;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ;

(e) the recommendations made by the Sarkaria Commission in regard to Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 ; and

(f) the follow-up action taken thereon ?

The Minister of State of the Ministry of Environment and Forests (Shri Kamal Nath) : (a) No, Sir.