

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) and (b). No Cultural Expansion Schemes under the National Heritage Project were either to be formulated or framed during VIth Five Year Plan by the Archaeological Survey of India.

(c) Question does not arise.

[*English*]

Back-Waters Around Pichavaram Forest

2567. DR. P. VALLAL PERUMAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to launch a scheme to keep clean the back-waters around Pichavaram forest in South Arcot District of Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to desilt and deepen the water course enabling to tourists to reach Pichavaram by sea; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b). For environmental protection in the back-waters of Pichavaram, a scheme has been launched under the programme on conservation of mangroves. Fencing around mangrove vegetation, dredging of shallow channels, desilting and clearance of debris and regeneration of mangroves are among the activities undertaken in the scheme. During 1988-89, the Union Government has sanctioned an amount of Rs. 2.87 lakhs to the State Government for implementation of the scheme.

(c) At present, there is no such proposal.

(d) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

Land For Nehru Planetorium

2568. SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the name of the Ministry which had allotted land for the construction of Nehru Planetorium within the premises of Teen Murti Bhawan, New Delhi; and

(b) the conditions prescribed therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) and (b). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Shortage of Drinking Water in Uttar Pradesh

2569. SHRI RAJVEER SINGH: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of towns where there was shortage of drinking water in Uttar Pradesh during the year 1989-90 and 1990-91;

(b) whether any financial assistance was provided to the State Government by the Union Government for overcoming the said shortage of drinking water during the above mentioned period;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) As per available information, 276 towns were facing shortage of drinking water in Uttar Pradesh as on March, 1989.

(b) and (c). During the year 1989-90, a ceiling of expenditure of Rs. 24.92 crores, which included an amount of Rs. 18.27 crores for drinking water programmes in the drought affected areas, was approved to the Govt. of Uttar Pradesh for drought relief.

From 1990-91, a Calamity Relief fund which includes inter-alia provision for drinking water, has been constituted for each State under which an amount of Rs. 90 crores had been allocated to Uttar Pradesh out of which Rs. 67.5 crores was contributed by the Central Government during 1990-91.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Drive Against hoardings in Delhi

2570. SHRI TARA CHAND KHAN-DELWAL:
SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have recently intensified its drive to remove unauthorised hoardings; and bill boards in Delhi;

(b) whether a large number of private advertisers are engaged in installing hoardings or bill boards;

(c) if so, the details thereof and whether

the permission from NDMC/MCD was taken before installing the hoardings; and

(d) if not, the action proposed to be taken by the Government against those advertisers which installed hoardings/bill boards illegally?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The New Delhi Municipal Committee has reported that a few advertisers are engaged in this activity on Government/private land. Cantonment Board, Delhi Cantonment, has reported that only one private advertiser has been selected to put up advertisements on electric lamp posts. The Municipal Corporation of Delhi have reported that unauthorised hoardings or bill boards are removed as and when noticed.

(c) Statement of hoardings by private parties in NDMC area is enclosed. No permission has been taken however from the NDMC. A number of advertisers have obtained stay orders from different courts for not removing the hoardings. The Municipal Corporation of Delhi have reported that hoarding sites/bill boards are allotted to the registered Advertising Agencies only in an open auction.

(d) The NDMC bye-laws relating to Control and Regulation of Advertisements notified in 1960, were struck down by the Delhi High Court. The NDMC has prepared fresh bye-laws which are yet to be notified by the competent authority.

The MCD have stated that illegal/unauthorised hoardings/ bill boards are removed. An intensified drive has also been launched to prosecute private hoardings displayed on private buildings.