

(d) the follow-up action being taken in the matter so far as the Central Government authorities are concerned ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The following subjects were discussed :

- (i) Waste-water collection and transportation;
- (ii) Waste-Water treatment of recycling;
- (iii) Energy recovery and product marketing and river water quality modelling;
- (iv) Problems of industrial waste management; and
- (v) Financing industrial Waste treatment systems.

(d) The recommendations of the Conference have not been received.

Depletion of Forests

3446. SHRIMATI MADHURI SINGH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the use of traditional wooden packing cases have gradually led to damage and depletion of forests and degradation of ecology; and

(b) how Government propose to save forests from the packing case manufacturers ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI) : (a) Use of wood for traditional packing cases has contributed; to some extent, to the

depletion and degradation of forests in certain parts of the country.

(b) Government have set up an inter-ministerial Group to recommend measures for substituting the use of wood for various purposes, including packing boxes. The report of the Group is awaited.

Trade Barriers among Commonwealth Countries

3447. SHRI RAM PYARE PANIKA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any trade barriers exist among any Commonwealth countries adversely affecting their trade;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any proposals were made at the recent meeting of the Commonwealth Heads of Government to dismantle such trade barriers; and

(d) if so, the outcome of those proposals ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K.R. NARAYANAN) : (a) and (b). Trade barriers in the form of Tariff and Non-Tariff restrictions exist among the Commonwealth countries. The Commonwealth, is no longer a forum for liberalisation of trade amongst its Member Countries. The trend is to seek liberalisation of trade on multilateral basis or on regional basis.

(c) No Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Exploitation of ocean wealth during Seventh Plan period

3448. SHRI RADHAKANTA DIGAL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have a proposal to give more emphasis to carry on the exploitation of ocean wealth during the Seventh Plan period;

(b) if so, what are the areas identified for research works to achieve the goal; and

(c) the details of the schemes proposed in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) & (c) The major areas identified for research work during the Seventh Five Year Plan period would be : Survey of living and non-living resources of the exclusive economic zone for optimum utilisation, polymetallic nodules programme, Antarctic research, control of marine pollution, development of suitable technology for extraction of energy from the sea, development of under water technology and increased human resource development in ocean science and technology.

Thakkar Commission Report

3449. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the final report of the Thakkar Commission has been received and is likely to be laid in Parliament during this Session; and

(b) whether Government have extended the term of the Thakkar Commission and if so, for how long ?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S.B. CHAVAN) : (a) Thakkar Commission of Inquiry has not submitted its final report so far.

(b) The term of Thakkar Commission of Inquiry has been extended upto 31.12.85.

Construction of Roads in Himachal Pradesh

3450. SHRI HARIHAR SOREN : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have a proposal to connect the Lahaul Spiti district of Himachal Pradesh with the rest of the country;

(b) if so, whether any tunnel or all weather road has been constructed there; and

(c) the details of the efforts made in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARUN SINGH) : (a) to (c). The trafficability of Manali-Leh road via Lahaul-Spiti valley is restricted on account of the snowfall and avalanche at Rohtang and other Passes. Feasibility studies related to the construction of a tunnel at Rohtang Pass are being conducted. In the meantime, improvement works and snow clearance measures on this road are being undertaken to keep the road open to traffic for a longer duration than in the past.

[Translation]

Setting up of Electronic Undertaking in M.P.

3451. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Central Government propose to establish an undertaking for electronic industry in the State of Madhya Pradesh; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor ?