

**"Pollution Caused by Babarpur and
Indraprastha Power Stations"**

5888. SHRI K.S. RAO : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that air around various thermal power stations in Delhi is polluted because of the burning of coal;

(b) if so, the measures already taken and proposed to be taken to stop or minimise this type of pollution;

(c) whether Government have made any detailed study of the pollution being caused by the Badarpur and Indraprastha Power Station and its impact on various localities around them; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

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

(b) The measures being taken include the following :

—installation of high efficiency electrostatic precipitators to replace those units which are not satisfactorily functioning;

—installation of latest design of electrostatic precipitators in series with the existing units to improve the ash collection system; and

—improvement in coal handling and ash disposal facilities.

(c) and (d). No detailed study has been made. However, investigations have been made in regard to stack emissions and ambient air quality in the surrounding areas.

**Memorandum to include Punnapra-
Vayalar Struggle for Freedom
Fighters Pension**

5889. SHRI T. BASHEER : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to states :

(a) whether any memorandum has been received to include Punnapra-Vayalar

Struggle as a part of freedom movement and grant freedom fighters pension to those who took part in that struggle; and

(b) if so, what decision has been taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The matter of recognition of Punnapra Vayalar Struggle has been considered by the Government from time to time but it has not been possible to treat it as part of the National freedom struggle for the purpose of Samman Pension under the Swatantrata Sainik Samman Pension Scheme.

**Preservation of Himalayas and other
Hilly Region**

5890. SHRI LAKSHMAN MILLICK : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that 13 member penal headed by Prof. Yash Pal, Secretary, Department of Science and Technology was appointed for research and development activities in relation to high altitude regions, particularly to save Himalayas from impending ecological dangers;

(b) if so, whether Government have received its report; and

(c) if so, the details regarding the suggestions made for the preservation of Himalayas and other hilly regions of the country ?

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) and (b). A thirteen member inter-ministerial task-force headed by the Secretary, Department of Science and Technology is in operation to follow up the recommendations made by the Indian Science Congress at its Annual Sessions. The recommendations of the

Science Congress held in January, 1985 in 'High Altitude Studies' were considered by the Inter-ministerial taskforce and a comprehensive report prepared on 'High Altitude Research and Mountain Development'.

- (c) The report has identified :
- (i) the need for preservation of Himalayas and other hilly regions;
 - (ii) the thrust areas for research to be undertaken;
 - (iii) present facilities for High Altitude research; and
 - (v) the proposed future plan action including appropriate institutional framework.

Pending Cases of Freedom Fighters Pension of Himachal Pradesh

5891. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to states :

(a) whether Government have made any effort for clearing the pending cases for the sanction of freedom fighters pension from Himachal Pradesh during the year 1985-86;

(b) if so, the number of freedom fighters from Himachal Pradesh who have been sanctioned pension upto 15 March, 1986 district-wise; and

(c) the target date by which all the pending cases would be disposed of ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATION AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) and (b). Every effort is being made by the Govt. to settle pending cases at an early date. As on 15th March, 1986, 434 freedom fighters and the dependents of deceased freedom fighters from Himachal Pradesh had been sanctioned pension under the Swatantrata Sainik Samman Pension Scheme. Only 60 cases are pending for want of verification reports from the State Government. The district-wise break-up of the sanctioned cases is as follows :

Bilaspur	89
Una	47
Simla	54
Kangra	52
Mahasu	11
Mandi	55
Hamirpur	22
Solan	29
Sirmur	59
Kulu	13
Chamba	4

(c) The remaining cases from Himachal Pradesh will be settled as soon as State Government sends verification reports.

Development of Tribals Traditionally Dependent on Forest Produce

5892. SHRI MANIK REDDY : SHRI P.R. KUMARAMAN-GALAM :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that 50 per cent of the tribals, traditionally dependent on forest produce have been denied their due share due to 1952 forest policy which changed their "rights" into "concessions";

(b) whether it is also a fact that Indian Forest Act, 1981, is like-wise unfavourable to the tribals and does not recognise their legitimate claims; and

(c) whether Government would involve fully the tribals in the Government's afforestation programmes ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI) : (a) No, Sir. The National Forest Policy, 1952 did not change the rights of the tribals into concessions.

(b) There is no such legislation as the Indian Forest Act, 1981. Therefore the question of this Act being unfavourable to the tribals on recognition of their legitimate claims does not arise,