

(c) the total expenditure likely to be incurred on the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.C. LENKA): (a) At present, no station in the State of Gujarat has been provided with Close Circuit Television.

(b) There is no such proposal

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

Ecological Imbalance in Eastern Maharashtra

4651 SHRI PANDURING PUNDLIK
FINDKAR:
SHRI GOVINDRAO NIKAM:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Rampant tree felling in Maharashtra" appearing in the Times of India (Bombay) dated February 25, 1993;

(b) if so, whether the region of eastern Maharashtra is facing danger if grave ecological imbalance due to large scale felling/smuggling of trees;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the effective steps being taken by the Government to prevent further degradation of the forests in the area?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise

(d) Government have taken following steps to prevent degradation of forests;

(i) The National Forest Policy, 1988, lays more emphasis on conservation of forests. There are specific provisions for protection of forests from grazing, fires and encroachment

(ii) Forest (Conservation) act was enacted in 1980 to check diversion of forest land for non-forest purpose. the Act has been made more stringent by an amendment in 1988.

(iii). Import of timber has been liberalised?

(iv) Export of timber has been banned.

Rail Link From Madras City to Tiruvannamalai

4652. SHRI M . KRISHNASWAMY:
Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was a proposal to have a rail link between Madras City and Tiruvannamalai via Cheyyar and Wandowosi in Southern Railway;

(b) if so, the present status of this proposal;

(c) whether any survey has been conducted in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action proposed to be taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.C. LENKA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise

(c) No, Sir

(d) Does not arise

Implementation of Mirdha Committee

4653. SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL: Will the Minister of Human Resource Development be pleased to state:

(a) Whether Mirdha Committee's recommendations have since been accepted on January 14, 1983;

(b) If so, whether recommendations of the committee for Horticulture Branch in Archaeological Survey of India are proposed to be implemented;

(c) If not, the reasons therefor;

(d) Whether there is any proposal for the development of gardens around the monuments in the country;

(e) If so, the details thereof;

(f) If not, the details of planning to improve the environment around the amounts in the country;

(g) Whether a number of posts are lying vacant in different categories in the Horticulture Branch, Archaeological Survey of India; and

(h) If so, since when and the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA): (a) The Expert Group (known as Mirdha Committee) was itself constituted in 1983 vide Government of

India Resolution No. F.14/52/82-M dated 8th January, 1983. Hence, the question of accepting its recommendations on 14th January, 1983 does not arise.

(b) to (f). The recommendations of the Committee insofar as development of gardens around the monuments is concerned has already been taken up for implementation. In recent times nearly over a dozen garde have been developed/laid around some select monuments in various parts of the country. This process would also continue in future keeping in view the importance of monuments and availability of resources.

In respect of the Committee's recommendations about the strengthening of Horticulture Branch and taking steps for proper co-operation of this Branch with the other Branches, the Empowered Committee constituted to serutinise the recommendations o Mirdha Committee decided that Horticulture staff should be placed under the administrative control of the Circles so that their work is properly supervised and co-ordinated. However, these orders could not be implemented due to Stay Order granted by the Hon'ble High court, Allahabad. Owing to the pendency of the said court case, further action to assess the requirement of additional staff for Horticulture Branch could not be undertaken.

(g) and (h). Yes, Sir. However, the number, of vacancies in various categories (Group 'A', 'B', 'C' and 'D') is not large compared to the authorised strength. Most of these vacancies are from 1983 onwards. However a few pertain to the year 1983 onwards. These vacancies could not be filled up for various reasons like non-availability of suitable condedates reserved and unreserved category non-attractive scales of pay, outlandish locations of some of the monuments, etc.