

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA): (a) and (c). In November, 1991, the Chief Minister of Gujarat requested the Government of India to set up a regional office of UGC at Ahmedabad or Gandhinagar. According to the information furnished by UGC, the commission has taken a decision, in principle, to set up its regional offices. An empowered committee, constituted by the UGC, is examining the various issues like location of regional offices, requirement of infrastructural facilities, operational frame-work, etc.

National Award for Teachers

188. PROF. SAVITHRI LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Award has been conferred on teachers for 1992-93;

(b) if so, the details of the awardees; and

(c) if not, the reason for delay in declaring the said award?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA): (a) to (c). National Awards to teachers for a particular year are distributed in the following year. Awards for the year 1992 were given away by the President of India to 274 meritorious teachers on 5th September, 1993. Awards for the year 1993 will be distributed on 5th September, 1994.

Sanctuary in Mathura Refinery

189. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK: 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 "Sanctuary within a refinery" appearing in the 'Hindustan Times' dated January 31, 1994;

(b) whether the ecological park of Mathura refinery is gradually turning into a mini birds sanctuary and hundred of migratory birds flock to this park during winter season;

(c) if so, whether the effluent and toxic gases emitting out of the refinery are harmful for the life of birds;

(d) if so, whether Government propose to direct the State Government to develop this park as a sanctuary; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b). The Government has seen the news report. However, no report in this regard has been received from the government of Uttar Pradesh.

(c) Effluents discharged and gases emitted from the refinery are complying with the prescribed standards. The ambient air quality also comply with the norms prescribed. However, the data on the impact of emissions on the life of birds is not available.

(d) There is no proposal under consideration in the Central Government to direct the State Government to develop this park as a sanctuary.

(e) Does not arise.

[English]

New Trains

191. SHRI KRISHAN DUTT SULTANPURI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of trains proposed to be run from the State capitals for the last one year;

(b) the reasons for not implementing the above proposals;

(c) the States which have demanded for more new train services; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to meet the demand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K .C. LENKA): a) and (b). Introduction of new trains is a continuous ongoing process subject to traffic justification, operational feasibility and resource availability. During 1993 and January, 1994 the following trains from Capitals of some States were introduced:-