

(a) whether India is planning to launch a satellite into space in the near future;

(b) if so, by what time; and

(c) whether there is also any programme to set up earth satellite in space?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT (PROF. M.G.K. MENON): (a) to (c). Yes, Sir. INSAT-1D satellite is scheduled to be launched in June, 1990. This will provide Telecommunication, Television Broadcasting, Meteorology, Radio-Networking and other data relay services. The second Indian Remote Sensing Satellite in IRS Series, IRS-1B, which is identical to IRS-1A, is scheduled for launch by the middle of 1991 for earth resources study.

[English]

Sanctuary for Sloth Bears in Karnataka

948. SHRIMATIBASAVA RAJESWARI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have suggested to Karnataka Government to set up a separate sanctuary in the State for sloth bears - an endangered species;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) to what extent Karnataka Government has accepted the suggestion; and

(d) the expenditure involved in the implementation of the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMEN-

TATION (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) No suggestion has been made to Government of Karnataka to set up a separate sanctuary for sloth bears in the state. However, Government of India had requested the Chief Wildlife Warden, Karnataka, for preparing a plan of action for relocation of bears.

(b) A scheme for construction of a bear enclosure over 4 hectares of land in Bannerghatta National Park at an estimated cost of Rs. 49.50 lakhs has been received from the chief Wildlife Warden, Karnataka.

(c) and (d). Approval of Karnataka Government to this scheme has not been received.

National level test for University/ College Lecturers

949. SHRIMATI MALINI BHATTACHARYA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are reconsidering the recent scheme to introduce National tests for Research Scholars and College/University lecturers; and

(b) if so, whether Government have taken into account the view of the teachers' organisation in this matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT (PROF. M.G.K. MENON): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Opening of Navodaya Vidyalayas

950. DR. SUDHIR RAY:
SHRI KESHRI LAL: