

scope of the impugned order shall not be extended without prior leave of the court.

3. The Government is fully committed to undertaking special measures for SEBCs. In Implementing the policy of the reservation, the Government intends to give preference to the poorer sections among SEBSs, while ensuring that, if candidates are not available from poorer sections, the benefits will go to other members within the Backward Classes. The benefits of reservation will also be provided to other economically backward sections of the people who are not covered by any existing scheme of reservation.

4. To enable the Government to evolve a consensus among major political parties, the Supreme Court has granted an adjournment to 24 September, 1991 for hearing the writ petition.

[English]

Control of Aids

*455. SHRIMATI BASAVA RAJESHWARI : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the world bank has agreed to provide assistance to control AIDS in the country;

(b) if so, the quantum of assistance proposed to be provided;

(c) whether the Union Government have prepared any programme to check/eradicate this disease; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI M.L. FOTEDAR) : (a) and (b) Yes.

the World Bank has agreed in principle to provide assistance to control AIDS in the country. The total outlay of the AIDS project is estimated to be about US \$ 65 million. The base cost is estimated at US \$ 55 million and the remaining amount is intended for cost escalation and other unforeseen contingencies.

(c) and (d) The National AIDS Control Programme was started in 1987. The programme has been supported by the external funding agencies such as WHO and USAID. The activities undertaken so far include:—

- organising a surveillance system for determining the prevalence and infectivity trends in groups practising high risk behaviour.
- promoting safety of blood and blood products by establishment of testing facilities for screening blood in blood banks on a zonal basis.
- health education.
- formulation of guidelines for hospital infection control.
- strengthening of 13 regional hospitals and training of clinicians and para-medical staff in diagnosis and management of HIV infected patients.
- implementing focussed activity plans in States/UTs where a relatively larger number of HIV infected persons have been detected on the basis of surveillance.

The proposed World Bank project is designed to comprehensively deal with all aspects of the problem all

over the country in a definite time-frame of three years.

Pooyankutty Hydro-Electric Project

*456. PROF. SAVITHRI LAKSHMANAN : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Kerala has requested to the Union Government to release 300 hectares of forest land for the Pooyankutty Hydro-Electric Project; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Union Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) and (b) A proposal for diversion of 3001.8 hectares of forest land for Pooyankutty Hydro-Electric Project was received from the State Government of Kerala in July, 1987. After careful consideration of all aspects the State Government was informed about inability to give approval for the diversion.

Job Opportunities to Handicapped Persons

*457. SHRI Bh. VIJAYA KUMAR RAJU : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the steps taken by the Government to provide job opportunities to the physically handicapped persons:

(b) whether the Government propose to exempt them from the examination conducted by the Staff Selection Commission and to give them jobs directly;

(c) whether the employment exchanges can provide them jobs according to their educational qualifications; and

(d) whether the Government propose to raise reservation of three per cent for providing them more employment ?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI) : (a) (i) The Government of India have reserved 3% of vacancies against identified posts in Group 'C' and Group 'D' for the physically handicapped persons. The categories of handicapped persons benefited by this scheme are the Blind, the Deaf and the Orthopaedically handicapped, each category getting 1% reservation in Central Government services.

(ii) 23 Special Employment Exchanges, 55 Special Cells in normal Employment Exchanges and 17 Vocational Rehabilitation Centres for physically handicapped persons have been set up to assist handicapped persons in securing gainful employment.

(iii) Special recruitment drives for filling up the backlog of reserved posts in respect of Group 'C' and 'D' posts for blind and deaf have been conducted by Staff Selection Commission.

(iv) Voluntary Organisations are being assisted through grants for education, training and rehabilitation of the handicapped.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The Employment Exchanges sponsor registered candidates for employment who fulfil the qualifications and other requirements of posts notified to them by employers such as