

Upgrading of Uranium Ore

2354. SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that our country has developed a process of bacterial treating of Uranium ore of low grade; and

(b) if so, whether the process has been exploited and found to be effective in upgrading the Uranium ore ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, SPACE AND ELECTRONICS (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Laboratory and pilot tests showed that Uranium from some of the low grade uranium ores can be treated taking advantage of bacterial oxidation. The process, however, extends over weeks. Industrial application of these tests has not yet been tried.

Setting up of a Science Museum in Nagpur

2355. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a proposal under consideration of Government to set up a Science Museum in Nagpur City (Maharashtra);

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that a survey was conducted for setting up of the said museum some time back; and

(c) if so, the findings of the survey and by when the said museum will be set up in Nagpur City ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSION AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). A survey conducted by the National Council of Science Museums and

up the proposed Science Museum. A master plan for the project is being prepared and work will be taken up depending on the land and requisite funds being made available by the State Government.

Restriction on Foreign Tourists to Visit Darjeeling

2356. SHRI SUDHIR ROY :
SHRI AJOY BISWAS :
SARI BASUDEB ACHARIA :

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there are restrictions on foreign tourists who intend to visit Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) whether it is a fact that restrictions are imposed on foreign tourists who intend to visit Darjeeling and adjoining areas;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether Government propose to abolish such restrictions ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSION AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO) : (a) Except for some border areas of J and K, there are no restrictions on foreign tourists in J and K.

(b) and (c). The District of Darjeeling in West Bengal has been declared as a restricted area and therefore, travel by foreign tourists to places of interest in and around Darjeeling are regulated by permits,

(d) Government of India have been reviewing the restriction imposed on movement of foreigners from time to time and relaxing them as necessary. Only recently Government have further relaxed the procedure for entry to the area.

[Translation]

Termination of Services of IPC and IPS Officers

2357. SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :