

the Civil Aviation Department. The development works are proposed to be taken up on completion of transfer formalities.

Development of Rameshwaram into a Tourist Centre

2385. SHRI R. ANNANAMBI : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government of Tamil Nadu submitted to the Central Government six years ago a proposal for development of Rameshwaram into a World class tourist Centre; and

(b) if so, the decision taken in this regard ?

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) and (b). In 1980 the Government of Tamil Nadu had submitted a proposal at an estimated cost of Rs. 28 crores suggesting that financial assistance may be sought from the World Bank for development of Rameshwaram. The Ministry of Finance to whom the matter was referred expressed the view that since no significant expenditure in foreign exchange was involved in the project, it may not be beneficial to approach the World Bank for assistance.

The Central Department of Tourism however agreed in principle to provide financial assistance for the construction of a Reception Centre and a dharamshala at Rameshwaram. The State Government has intimated that they are identifying suitable land for these two projects.

Setting up a National Science and Technology Information Network

2386. PROF. RAMKRISHNA MORE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to set up a National Science and Technology

(b) If so, the details thereof ?

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. The programme of National Information System for Science and Technology (NISSAT) was initiated in 1977.

(b) Initially, four sectoral information centres on machine tools, leather, food technology and drugs and pharmaceuticals, and a data-centre on crystallography were set up. Modern technologies of on-line connection with remote databases and computer based selective dissemination of information were demonstrated; several short-term courses, seminars and exhibitions were organised. During the Seventh Five Year Plan, it is proposed to expand the activities and develop the network.

Increase in Lump-Sum Payment on Account of Commuted Pension

2387. DR. VENKATESH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to increase the rate of lump-sum payment on account of the commutation of pension by the retiring Government employees from the existing rate of Rs. 125/- per rupee of pension;

(b) if not, whether the existing rate of commutation which was fixed decades ago should now be revised keeping in view the rate of inflation; and

(c) further action proposed to ameliorate the economic conditions of the pensioners or retiring Government employees ?

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) No, Sir.

(b) A proposal to review the existing

examined by the Government sometime ago, but it was not considered appropriate to make any changes at present.

(c) The existing Central Government pensioners are being given relief whenever dearness allowance is sanctioned to the serving Central Government employees. The issue of retirement benefits for the serving Central Government employees is, however, being looked into by the 4th Pay Commission.

Request from State Government for Clearance of Various Projects

2388. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Central Government received any requests from the State Governments for the clearance of projects like construction of roads, laying down of drinking water supply pipelines, irrigation channels and the erection of telecom/

electric poles in the areas covered by forest lands and involving the cutting of trees during the first quarter of the current financial year 1985-86;

(b) if so, the details thereof, state-wise;

(c) the number of cases, state-wise, in which clearance has been given to the State Governments; and

(d) the likely date by which other cases would be disposed of ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI VIR SEN) : (a) to (c). A statement is given below.

The pending cases, 48 will be disposed of after the requisite information is supplied by the state government. The six cases under process will be disposed of in the next few weeks.

Statement

S. No.	Category	Total receipt	Latest position			
			Approved	Not approved	Under process	Additional information from State Government awaited
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
I. MAHARASHTRA						
(a)	Roads	1	—	—	—	1
(b)	Drinking water-supply pipeline	2	2	—	—	—
(c)	Irrigation Channel	5	—	—	3	2
(d)	Telecom/Electric poles	3	—	—	1	2
(e)	Others	—	—	—	—	—
Sub-total (I)		11	2	—	4	5
II. UTTAR PRADESH						
(a)	Roads	4	1	—	—	3
(b)	Drinking water-supply					