

- (a) whether laser monitoring of pollution is being carried out in the country; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI): (a) and (b). Work in the area of laser remote sensing of the atmosphere has been recently initiated at several places in India. However its application to pollution monitoring is not adopted at present.

Afforestation Programme

3567. SHRI PIYUS TIRAKY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) the total acres of forest that existed in Chhotanagpur before independence;
- (b) the acres left under forest now;
- (c) the number of hills and hillocks at present found naked and the areas of barren lands around each hill and hillocks of this region;
- (d) whether Government have any plan for afforestation of these naked hills and hillocks and the growing barren lands around, unfit for cultivation; and
- (e) if so, the details of the plan, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI): (a) No record of the extent of forest area in Chhotanagpur before Independence is available.

- (b) The forest area in Chhotanagpur at present is about 2.12 million ha.
- (c) No specific survey of the hills and hillocks has been carried out.
- (d) and (e). Various schemes of plantation including the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of 'Social Forestry including rural

fuelwood plantation' are in operation in the area. In addition, a social forestry project with financial assistance from SIDA is being executed.

Atomic Power Plant In Nagarjuna Sagar

3568. SHRI C. SAMBU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government have any proposal to construct atomic power station at Nagarjuna Sagar in Andhra Pradesh; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHIVRAJ V PATIL) (a) and (b). The Site Selection Committee of the Department of Atomic Energy has examined sites in Andhra Pradesh, alongwith sites located in other constituent states of the Southern Electricity Region, to assess their suitability for setting up of Nuclear Power Stations. The report of the Site Selection Committee is under consideration of the Government.

[*Translation*]

Group Insurance Scheme for Railway Licensed Porters

3569. SHRIMATI USHA VERMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government have introduced a group insurance scheme for the railway licensed porters;
- (b) if so, the number of the railway stations where the said scheme has been introduced so far;
- (c) whether the National Federation of Railway Porters, Vendors and Bearers has given suggestions to the Government to bring about some improvement in the scheme; and