

| | Percentage of Surplus workforce | Expenditure in 1987-88 ————— (In Rs. crores) |
|----------------------|---------------------------------|--|
| Bhilai Steel Plant | 4 | 10.11 |
| Durgapur Steel Plant | 5 | 6.54 |
| Rourkela Steel Plant | 2 | 2.55 |
| Bokaro Steel Plant | 3 | 5.96 |
| HSCO | 8 | 8.18 |

(b) After accounting for retirements; the surplus manpower will be retrained and redeployed to new areas of work to meet the requirement of improved technological practices.

Development of Western Ghats in Karnataka

*139 SHRI V.S. KRISHNA IYER :
SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESHWARI :

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a Rs. 212 Crore project for protection and development of forests in Western Ghats has been forwarded to Union Government by the State Government of Karnataka;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Union Government propose to assist the State Government in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details of the assistance likely to be provided ?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI) :

(a) No Sir,

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

News-Item Captioned "Credit System Helping Rural Rich"

*140. SHRI MANIK REDDY :
SHRI SUBHASH YADAV :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "credit system helping rural rich" appearing in the Financial Express dated 20 June, 1988 wherein it is stated that banking and co-operative credit system in most of the States has failed to relieve the rural poor from a stranglehold of money lenders;

(b) whether Government propose to set up special institutions for providing credit to smaller peasants; and

(c) what other measures are contemplated to ensure that banking and co-operative credit system in the country actually helps the needy rural poor ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BHAJAN LAL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Disbursement of agricultural credit through existing credit institutions has been increasing over the years. The total disbursement rose from Rs. 885.16 crores in 1970-71 to Rs. 9644.46 crores in 1987-88. More and more banking and co-operative institutions are being opened in the rural areas to meet the credit requirements of the rural poor.

Development of New Metals

1202. SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA :
Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether new metals similar to the natural ones like gold, silver and iron could be developed artificially in the laboratory through their atoms according to research made by the Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur;

(b) whether such man-made metals could be more effective and stronger than their natural counter-parts;

(c) whether any experiment has been made in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether Government would consider to develop such metals to meet the shortage of natural metals in view of their ever increasing demand ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L.P. SHAHI) : (a) to (d). No Sir. However according to the research conducted at Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi, thin films of suitable materials deposited on metals can have physical appearance of specific metals like gold and silver. Such coatings are more effective and have mechanical hardness higher than the conventional metals. These coatings have been deposited by thin films deposition processes like magnetron sputtering and activated reactive evaporation.

(e) No process is available for developing new metals at this stage.

SAARC Study for protection and Conservation of Environment

1204. DR. B.L. SHAIKESH : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the scope and methodology for the proposed study for protection and conservation of the environment of SAARC countries was discussed by environmental experts from seven countries at their meeting held in Kathmandu during June, 1988;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(c) whether any fund is being raised for the purpose and if so, India's contribution thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI) : (a) The scope and methodology for the proposed study for protection and conservation of the environment of SAARC countries was discussed by environmental experts from

seven countries at their meeting held in Kathmandu from July 13th to 15th, 1988.

(b) It was decided that, in the first instance, the problems would be studied at national level, in a common format, Based on these studies, areas of regional concern and studies required at a regional level would be identified. These would be presented to the SAARC summit for consideration and decision.

(c) No, Sir.

Lime-Stone Quarrying in Dheradun

1205. SHRI PIYUS TIRAKY : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether rapid increase in construction activities has threatened ecology of Dehradun;

(b) if so, the details of the forests denuded on account of lime-stone quarrying and other construction activities;

(c) whether ground water level in Dehradun has gone down rapidly;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken to save the ecology of Dehradun ?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI) :

(a) Increase in construction activity has resulted in some adverse impacts on the environment.

(b) The lime stone quarrying and other construction activities have resulted in denudation of forests in the area. The actual extent of denudation has not been assessed.

(c) and (d). The extraction of limestone through quarrying operations has adversely affected the ground water levels due to the following reasons :

(i) The limestone is a natural aquifer and quarrying operations disturb this aquifer thereby reducing the ground water levels.