

1351. DR. G. VIJAYA RAMA RAO : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are taking action to legislate for regulation of production, supply and distribution of infant milk foods; and

(b) if so, the proposed time-schedule of the legislation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No time schedule has been proposed for this purpose.

Conference on Neem and Insecticides of Plant Origin in Nairobi

1352. DR. G. VIJAYA RAMA RAO : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a Conference was held on Neem and other insecticides of Plant Origin last year in Nairobi which was attended by Indian Scientists and if so, the recommendations made ; and

(b) the follow up action taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE RESEARCH AND EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARI KRISHNA SHASTRI) : (a) Sir, a conference on neem was held in Nairobi in 1986 and it was attended by Indian Scientists. The conference made seven recommendations concerning various aspects of neem tree cultivation and its usages.

(b) A National Centre on Agro-forestry has been set up to look after the cultivation aspects of Neem and other trees.

Development of Sports and Sportspersons

1353. SHRI K. KUNJAMBU : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have formulated any perspective plan for developing sports and sportspersons in the country;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof; and

(c) how much money has been allotted this year for this purpose ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA) : (a) and (b). No perspective plan linked with a time frame for development of sports and sportspersons in the country has yet been formulated. However, the broad objectives and strategies for development of sports are laid down in the National Sports Policy and the Seventh Five Year Plan. Recently Government has formulated an excellence development programme "Operation Excellence" (Policy and Guidelines) 1988-90 under which National Sports Federations are required to formulate Long Term Development Plans for different sports disciplines. These plans include details of coaching programme, calendar of national and international events and requirement, foreign coaches and competitive exposure.

(c) A budget provision amounting to Rs. 59.82 crores has been made for the year 1988-89 for sports.

Autonomous States of Colleges

1354. SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : SHRI YASHWANTRAO GADAKH PATIL :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the response to the University Grants Commission scheme of promoting autonomous colleges has been rather poor;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof :

(c) whether the University Grants Commission would review the pattern and

extent of assistance given under the scheme so as to secure a better response, and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps being taken to achieve the targets set for the Seventh Plan ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L.P. SHAHI) : (a) and (b). The Scheme of autonomous colleges was initiated by the UGC in 1978. At the end of 1986, only 20 autonomous colleges were functioning in the country. Following the emphasis placed on the Scheme of autonomous colleges in the National Policy on Education, and the revision of the guidelines for its implementation in January, 1987, 62 new colleges have been selected for conferment of autonomous status till June, 1988. According to information available, proposals for autonomous status from 85 more colleges are at various stages of consideration by the Universities/State Governments, etc.

(c) and (d). In the revised guidelines the Commission has agreed to enhance the financial support to autonomous colleges. An autonomous college will now be eligible for grants ranging between Rs. 4 and Rs. 7 lakhs per annum (depending upon the number of courses) as against an annual assistance Rs. 2 lakhs in the previous scheme. The Government and the UGC are also pursuing the implementation of the Scheme with the State Governments and Universities so that the proposal to develop 500 autonomous colleges by the end of the VII Plan is implemented.

Ship Repairing Yard at Haldia

1355. DR. SUDHIR ROY : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether in view of the inadequate existing facilities for ship repairs in our country and mounting expenditure on repairs abroad Government propose to reconsider the decision on the proposed ship repairing yard at Haldia; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT) : (a) There is no proposal before the Government for creation of ship repair yard at present.

(b) Does not arise.

Concern Over Construction of Big Dams

1356. SHRI SATYENDRA NARAYAN SINHA :
SHRI H.G. RAMULU :

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

(a) whether leading environmentalists have warned Government against the dangers posed by big dams;

(b) whether recent tremors witnessed in areas near Idukki reservoir confirm these worst of environmentalists;

(c) whether a proper environmental assessment has been made on such dams using mathematical models; and

(d) if so, the details of studies made ?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI) : (a) Environmentalists have expressed concern, particularly in the recent years, regarding possible adverse environmental effects of big dams.

(b) A number of tremors of magnitude ranging between 3.5 to 4.5 on Richter Scale were experienced in June 1988 about 25 km. east of Idukki reservoir. The main reasons these tremors, as per studies made by the Central Water Commission and the Kerala State Electricity Board, are the following :

- Idukki area is seismically active and such tremors had been experienced even before the project came up.
- Natural slippage of rocks.
- Large withdrawal of ground water from deep bore wells. The investigations by Kerala State Electricity Board has revealed that the