

applications are received from time to time and are dealt with on the relevant files. No consolidated statistics about pending cases are maintained nor is it feasible to indicate any time limit for their disposal.

Felling of Trees in Konkan Division of Maharashtra

2775. PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to large scale felling of trees in the Sindhudurg and Ratnagiri districts of the backward Konkan region of Maharashtra the environment in this region, with natural beauty has been adversely affected; and

(b) if so, whether Central assistance offered to the Maharashtra Government to accelerate the programme of social forestry in this region to protect the environment?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI): (a) No reports have been received of large scale felling of trees on Government forest land in Sindhudurg and Ratnagiri districts. However, there are reports about felling of trees on private land which has adversely affected the local environment.

(b) Social forestry programme with financial assistance from Central Government is being implemented in the region to protect the environment.

Central Assistance for Bombay

2776. PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the amount given by Union Govern-

ment so far to the Maharashtra Government for the Union Development in Bombay including slum improvement out of Prime Minister's Rupees One Hundred crore grant; and

(b) the details of programmes of urban development on which the amount has been already spent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) Under the Special Grant of Rs. 100 crores to the Government of Maharashtra for solving the acute problems of housing and slums in Bombay Rs. 30.00 crores have been released to the State Government till date.

(b) *Urban Renewal Projects:*

Out of 16 schemes taken in hand, 6 buildings have been completed. Out of 742 tenements in transit camp at Vinobha Bhave Nagar Kurla 336 tenements have been completed. One more transit camp consisting of 624 tenements has also been taken up.

Slum upgradation

Out of 43 slum pockets identified, work of 15 slum pockets has commenced.

Dharavi Development:

Out of 38 slum pockets identified, work of community development has been completed in 12 pockets. The work in remaining pockets is in progress. As regards off-site infrastructure, the work of deepening and clearing of Mithi river has been completed.

Development of Anti-Body to Fight AIDS

2777. DR. G. VIJAYA RAMA RAO: Will

the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

[Translation]

Daily Wages to Women Labourers

2778. SHRI KAMLAPRASAD RAWAT: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to give minimum daily wages to the women landless labourers during pregnancy without taking any work from them;

(b) if so, when this proposal is likely to be implemented; and

(c) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI RADHAKISHAN MALVIYA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

[English]

Cases Filed Under Labour Laws

2779. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases filed under the Factories Act 1948, the Mines Act 1952, the Plantation Labour Act, 1951, the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986 which prohibit employment of children, in each State/Union Territory during the current financial year;

(b) whether the Union Government monitor the progress of such cases which arise out of violation of Central legislation; and

(c) if not, the reasons thereof?

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the fact that an anti-body to fight AIDS has been developed by some California Bio-technology company as reported in "The Indian Express" dated 10 February, 1989 and if so, the details of the possible applications thereof;

(b) whether any R & D work is being done by Government in this regard;

(c) whether any research is being done in the Indian systems of medicine to find a cure for AIDS, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE):

(a) Yes. Genentech Inc. announced that it had combined molecules of CD4, a naturally occurring protein with molecules of a viral protein known as GPI20. The resultant complex would lock on to the AIDS virus and keep it away from destroying the white cells.

The development may make it possible to manufacture a drug that would render the virus harmless.

(b) No. However, global efforts in developing a cure for AIDS are being closely followed and as and when promising therapeutic and prophylactic agents are available trials will be initiated in India.

(c) It is true that symptoms of AIDS are similar to some extent with Ojakshya which is described in Charak Samhita but it would be difficult to confirm that AIDS is Ojakshya. The Central Council for Research in Ayurveda and Sidha, an autonomous body under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare for research in Ayurveda and Sidha, has not initiated any specific research on AIDS.