

“Setting up of Institute of Himalyan Environment Near Almora”

2962. SHRI MADAVRAO SCI-NDIA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to State :

(a) Whether a Centrally sponsored autonomous institute—the Institute of Himalayan Environment, for preserving the Himalayan eco-system is proposed to be set-up near Almora ;

(b) if so, the main activities to be undertaken by the Institute for coo-development of the Himalayan regi-on;

(c) whether the proposed institute would also coordinate the work being done by various organisations in this field ; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The objectives of the Institute will be to evolve integrated management strategies for conservation of natural resources and sustained development of the Himalayan region. The Institute will be the coordinating body for integrated policy planning towards promotion of research and development, training and education, public awareness and field action projects. Further, the Institute will work as the nodal point of a network organisation with active involvement of existing research and educational institutions as also the Government and voluntary agencies in the Himalayan States. The Institute will be structured as an autonomous body with a high level Advisory Committee and multi-disciplinary teams for executing field work on location specific problems.

Appraisal of Major ongoing Public Sector Projects

2963, SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY :

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the appraisal of 23 major outgoing public sector projects of Rs. 100 crore or above each shows a staggering cost over-run of Rs. 5461.44 crores in the last five years; if so, the names of these projects;

(b) whether any steps proposed to be taken for completing the projects in time; and

(c) if so, the details of the same?

THE MINISTER OF PLANNING (SHRI S.B. CHAVAN) : (a) No specific exercise undertaken in the Planning Commission to appraise the progress of major public sector projects has identified 23 major public sector projects with a cost over-run of Rs. 5461.44 crores over the last five years. However, it is a fact that in a number of major public sector projects, there have been large cost over-runs. Details of cost over-runs in important projects under implementation are contained in the Public Enterprises Survey 1981-82, Volume I, page 113-114, laid on the Table of the House by Minister of Finance on 25th February, 1983.

(b) and (c) Various steps have been taken to improve project monitoring through modern management techniques and improved project formulation. Government are devoting special attention to speedier development of infrastructure like power, transport etc. so that these do not contribute to project delays. A Cabinet Committee on monitoring of execution and expeditious completion of major projects is periodically reviewing the progress of major projects under implementation, identifying bottlenecks, if any, and initiating necessary remedial steps. The Administrative Ministries also review periodically the performance of public sector companies.

Recommendations of Sivaramnan Committee on Development of Eastern Region

2964, SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY :