

Report on Kerala's Silent Valley Hydel Project ; and

(b) the action taken thereon ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINH) : (a) and (b) The Joint Central State Committee set up to examine the ecological aspects of the Silent Valley Project headed by Prof. M.G.K. Menon has submitted its Report to the Government of India as well as the Government of Kerala. The report and the alternate proposals of Government of Kerala are under consideration.

Livelihood of People of Chamoli District at Sino-Indian Borders

4825. SHRI SYED MASUDAL HOS-SAIN : Will the Minister of PLAN-NING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Prime Minister is aware that Central Government as well as State Government of U.P. have stopped all the developmental work in Chamoli District's Joshimath and Ghat Blocks situated on the Sino-Indian Border ;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof ; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take for the benefit of the people there ?

THE MINISTER OF PLANNING (SHRI S.B. CHAVAN) : (a) to (c) The Government of India have not received any report of stoppage of developmental works in Joshimath and Ghat Blocks of Chamoli District. The State Government have categorically stated that they have not stopped any development works in the two blocks. However in view of the need for conservation of flora and fauna, the Nanda Devi sanctuary has been closed to mountaineers and tourists and some restrictions have been imposed on visitors to the Valley of Flowers. Grazing

in these areas has been prohibited under Wild Life Protection Act, 1972. Alternative areas outside the Park have been earmarked for grazing of sheep, goat etc. Efforts are being made to offer alternative employment to local people in afforestation and other forestry activities.

Production of soap by Hindustan Lever

4826. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 5193 on 11 August, 1982 regarding production of soap by Hindustan Lever and state :

(a) whether there is no way of knowing as to the use of minor oils and therefore sophisticated technology, as claimed by Hindustan Lever Limited, in soap making ;

(b) whether Government are wholly dependent upon the information given to them by the company for computing the statistics under the heads, appendix I activity, activity, involving sophisticated technology, own exports and turnover from other activities ;

(c) if so, the reasons for allowing Hindustan Lever Limited to retain foreign majority equity holdings, ever since 1974 the remedial action taken ; and

(d) whether edible quality groundnut oil was bought by Hindustan Lever Limited under the brand name RG II and was used for soap production at Saurashtra ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI) : (a) No, Sir. The technology for the manufacture of soap by M/s. Hindustan Lever Ltd. using minor oils has been recognised as sophisticated by the Department of Science & Technology.

(b) and (c) M/s. Hindustan Lever Ltd., has been allowed to retain non-resident share holding at the level of 51%