

Setting of the Institute for Himalayan Environment and Development

3560. SHRI SHIVENDRA BAHADUR SINGH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state

(a) whether in 1982 it had been announced in Parliament that Government proposed to establish an Institute for Himalayan Environment and Development;

(b) in view of advisability and desirability of quickly setting up this Institute to tackle the grave environmental problems facing the Himalaya what further action has been taken by Government towards setting up of this proposed Institute ;

(c) by what time do Government envisage the said unit of the Institute to commence functioning ;

(d) whether Government propose, through the Institute to co-operate with His Majesty's Government of Nepal and the Royal Government of Bhutan in tackling the common threat faced by all of us through degradation of the Himalaya ; and

(e) if so, steps proposed by Government to obtain this international co-operation in environmental action ?

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

(b) Action taken includes :

(i) Final selection of the site for the Institute ;

(ii) Acquisition of land is proceeding through the State Government ;

(iii) High Level Advisory Committee has been constituted to guide and finalise the research and development profile for the Institute ;

(iv) A detailed programme for Re-generation of Himalayan Foothills is being worked out for implementation on priority.

(c) Institute will become operational in 1984 subject to the completion of the land acquisition proceedings.

(d) and (e) The establishment of the institute would further strengthen the interaction we have even now with the Governments of Nepal and Bhutan on environmental issues of mutual interest.

USSR's Offer to set up an Atomic Power Station in India

3561. SHRI ERA ANBARASU : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that USSR offered to set up a mammoth atomic power generator in India ;

(b) if so, whether Government have agreed to the proposal ;

(c) whether it is a fact that delegation has been sent to USSR recently to discuss about the proposal ; and

(d) if so, the outcome of the delegation ?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) A delegation is presently in the USSR to ascertain details of the offer.

Announcement by P.M. to Build "A Science City" in India

3562. DR. VASANT KUMAR PANDIT : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether recently the Prime Minister announced plans to build "A Science City" in India to attract Indian Scientists living abroad ;

(b) whether the Department of Science and Technology has worked out the details, examined its workability, consulted the Indian Scientists and approached to Planning Commission ; details and reasons on each point ;

(c) whether the proposed Science City to be set up at a cost of Rs. 125 crores has identified the areas of Research, cost of Laboratory and Instrumentation, Salaries to be paid to Indian Scientists returning to India and the financial viability of such a proposal ;