

only to physically handicapped persons, widows, students and persons with monthly income of below Rs. 300/-.

(c) 2886 cards have been issued.

(d) No, Sir. Only one Home Delivery Card is issued against one ration card.

(e) and (f). Do not arise.

[English]

#### Chakmas in North-Eastern States

653. SHRI CHITTA BASU : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government are aware of the growing discontentment among the Chakmas in the Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram and N.E. States; and

(b) if so, the specific steps taken to solve the problem to Chakmas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) and (b). Certain organisations like the All Arunachal Pradesh Students Union (AAPSU) in Arunachal Pradesh and the Mizo Zirlai Pawl (MZP) in Mizoram have been demanding the expulsion of 'foreigners' including Chakmas. The Chakmas in Arunachal Pradesh, on the other hand, have alleged violation of their human rights through intimidation and denial of basic amenities. The State Government of Arunachal Pradesh was advised to protect the life and property of all residents including the Chakmas in the State. A High Level Group was constituted under the Chairmanship of the Home Minister on December 26, 1995 to look into the background of issues of Chakmas and Hajongs in Arunachal Pradesh and to identify the course of action to be adopted. The Group, in its first meeting on January 5, 1996 constituted an Official Level Sub-Committee. On January 9, 1996 the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India directed, Inter alia, that the life and personal liberty of each and every Chakma residing within the State would be protected and that except in accordance with law the Chakmas would not be evicted from their homes. On a reference from the Government of Arunachal Pradesh, the State Government has been informed that the High Level Group and the Sub-Committee can continue to carry on their work, but such work will have to be in aid of the directions given by the Supreme Court, and not in derogation thereof. The State Government has been requested to indicate its convenience for the visit of the Sub-Committee to Arunachal Pradesh.

As regards the agitation relating to the expulsion of the Chakmas alleged to have come to Mizoram from outside, the State Government is handling the situation. The Central Government has advised the State

Government that any work of identification, etc. of foreigners should be carried out in accordance with the provisions of law and as per relevant instructions. It has also been suggested that any work in this connection needs to be carried out through governmental agencies only.

#### Crisis Alert System

654. SHRI SURESH KALMADI : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a Crisis Alert System to manage chemical accidents in the country; and

(b) if so, the salient features of the system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) and (b). According to the provisions of the proposed rules called the Chemical Accidents (Emergency Planning, Preparedness and Response) Rules, 1996, the Central Government will set up a Crisis Alert System within a stipulated time period. The salient features of the proposed system are as follows.

- (i) A functional Control Room alongwith an information networking system with the State and district control rooms will be set up at the Central Level.
- (ii) The Control Room will be furnished with the information namely major accident hazard installations in the country, major chemical accidents in chronological order, list of members of the Central, State and District Crisis Groups and databases on hazardous chemicals.
- (iii) Adequate staff and experts will be appointed to man the functional Control Room.
- (iv) It will also take measure to create awareness among the public with a view to preventing chemical accidents.

#### Cement Plant at Siju

655. SHRI G.G. SWELL : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Meghalaya in collaboration with the Associated Cement Company is setting up a giant cement plant at Siju, Garo Hills which is a very beautiful network of natural caves of great importance from the tourism point of view;

(b) whether the Government have cleared the cement plant from the environmental point of view.

(c) whether the Government propose to review the project in order to save the environment;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) to (e). Government of Meghalaya has sought environmental clearance for setting up a 0.6 million tonne per annum cement plant by Associated Cement Company at Siju, South Garo Hills, Meghalaya. The State Government has informed that Rapid EIA/EMP Study has been initiated in this regard and would be completed by June, 1996. A view will be taken on the proposal after the receipt of the EIA/EMP report.

#### Shortage of Coaches

656. SHRI V.M. SUDHEERAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) whether Government are aware of the acute shortage of coaches in Trivandrum Railway Division, and

(b) if so, the steps taken so far to made available sufficient number of coaches to avoid inconvenience to the passengers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b). Within the over-all availability, adequate number of coaches are available with Trivandrum Division to meet the present level of traffic.

[Translation]

#### Implementation of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980

657. SHRI BACHEE SINGH RAWAT BACHDA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state

(a) whether the various schemes including road construction have come to a standstill in the Uttaranchal area in Uttar Pradesh since the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 came into force;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to give any special concession for commencing the construction work on the Government schemes so that people may get benefit of the development schemes;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) & (c). Do not arise. However, a concession has already been provided to expedite clearance under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 in hill districts for projects which involve transfer upto 20 ha. of forest land and directly benefit the people of the area. In such projects, which include construction of link roads, small waterworks, minor irrigation works, school buildings, dispensaries, hospitals, tiny rural industrial sheds of the Government, identification and transfer of equivalent non-forest land for compensatory afforestation is not insisted and instead compensatory afforestation can be done over degraded forest land twice in extent of area being diverted.

(d) Does not arise.

#### National River Conservation Plan

658. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of National River Conservation Plan, amount earmarked, the targets fixed for completion of the Plan, river-wise ;

(b) the amount sanctioned and released so far, river-wise;

(c) the progress made so far, river-wise, and

(d) the request/proposals forwarded by the State Governments to the Union Government under the Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) to (d). The Government approved the National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) on 3rd July 1995 as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on equal sharing basis of the capital cost of works between the Central and the concerned State Governments. The sanctioned cost of works under the NRCP is about Rs 772 crores to be spread over a period of 10 years. The details regarding the towns, rivers in various States including the sanctioned cost of works State-wise, besides other details, are given in the enclosed statement.

So far, 65 Detailed Project Reports of works have been approved by the Central Government. The concerned State Governments are in the process of implementing them. After commencement of works in a town, it would take about 4 years to complete these works. The works are staggered and it is likely that it will take about 10 years to complete all the works under NRCP.