

Royalty on Power

2335. SHRI ARVIND KAMBLE : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received memoranda from states for the payment of dues pertaining to the royalty on the electricity;

(b) if so, the details thereof, state-wise;

(c) whether any decision has taken by the Government in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARA-MANGALAM) : (a) to (e) No, Sir. However, Government of Himachal Pradesh in a Memorandum submitted to the Government in October, 1998 has demanded inter-alia, 12% free power from Bhakra Nangal and Beas Projects on the ground that the sources of the State to generate revenue/royalty out of natural resources which got submerged in the reservoirs have been diminished/reduced forever as well as distress caused and surrender of rights to generate power. The Government of Himachal Pradesh has also filed a Suit (Suit No.2 of 1996) under Article 131 of the Constitution of India in June, 1996 in Supreme Court. The matter is now sub-judice.

Use of Fly Ash in Road Construction

2336. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the fly ash emitted from power houses is being used in the construction of roads; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. M. THAMBI DURAI) (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Fly Ash has been used as core fill material for construction of embankment of the eastern approach of the second Nizamuddin bridge near Delhi on NH-24.

[English]

"Bill on Bio-Diversity"

2337. PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a draft bill on conservation of bio-diversity was prepared by the Government in 1997;

(b) whether an expert committee had gone into the question in depth and advised the Government to pilot the bill in the Parliament; and

(c) if so, the measures taken by the Government in 1998 to process the bill?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government had constituted an Expert Committee in August 1997 to recommend a suitable draft bill on biodiversity. The Committee gave its report alongwith a brief outline of the Biological Diversity Act in October 1997.

(c) In order to have wider consultations with all stakeholders, the draft outline was sent to all State Governments/Union Territories, experts, NGOs, universities, industry and others in June 1998. A national level meeting to discuss the draft was held on 5.8.98 under the chairmanship of the Minister, Environment and Forests (MEF). Based on the inputs generated in the national level meeting and the comments received, the draft outline was revised and discussed in a meeting of a compact group of experts on 27.10.98 under the chairmanship of MEF. Further action to finalise the bill is underway.

[Translation]

Financial Irregularity in RGSM

2338. SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether any financial irregularity has taken place in Rajiv Gandhi Siksha Mission, Bhopal, in Madhya Pradesh in the name of publishing books;

(b) if so, whether any inquiry has been conducted in this regard; and

(c) if so, the outcome thereof and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of reply to para (a) above.

[English]

Buddhist Sites

2339. SHRI M. RAJAIHAH : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether ASI have found Buddhist sites in the North Andhra; and

(b) if so, the details of steps taken to preserve these sites?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Archaeological Survey of India has preserved and protected