

New Technique for Treating Diseases

2373. SHRI K.P. MOHAN : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Centre for Cell Science under the Department of Biotechnology has invented a new technique for treating many diseases;

(b) if so, whether the new technique has been tried on an experimental basis;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(a) whether his Ministry are planning to establish three hospital based centres to make the said technique available on a wider scale and on a continuous basis;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a) The National Centre for Cell Science, Pune, has developed and standardized the technique for the culture of human skin to use it in cases of Vitiligo, burns and non-healing ulcers. In addition, it has also standardized the technique for cryo-preservation of bone marrow for cancer patients undergoing radical therapies.

(b) The method to culture skin, and grafting the same on human subject, has been standardized and applied in the treatment of over 80 patients. Bone marrow cryo-preservation technology is yet to be used in clinical practice.

(c) Out of 80 cases treated by this skin culture and grafting technology, 26 vitiligo cases, four Giant Nevi cases and nine Burn cases have been successfully cured.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) To further use this technology for the benefit of mankind, three hospital-based centres have been identified. These are:

- i) KEM Hospital and Research Centre, Pune.
- ii) Lok Manya Tilak Municipal Medical College and Hospital, Sion, Mumbai.
- iii) Lok Nayak Jaiprakash Hospital, New Delhi.

Initially for three years, the Government will support these centres and thereafter, the host organization is expected to run the same.

(f) Question does not arise.

[Translation]

"Bhurelal Committee on Pollution"

2374. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Bhurelal Committee set up by the Union Government regarding pollution control has submitted its report.

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon;

(d) whether after complete ban the tannery units are still working in the capital, Delhi, and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The authority has prioritized measures to reduce pollution in Delhi.

(c) The Government is implementing the measures proposed by the authority.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. The Delhi Pollution Control Committee has been directed to close any unauthorised operation of the tannery units in Delhi.

[English]

Krishna-Godavari Action Plan

2375. SHRI PRASAD BABURAO TANPURE : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have given approval to Krishna-Godavari purification action plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total expenditure earmarked by Government for this purpose;

(a) the share of expenditure of Centre and State of Maharashtra in this project; and

(e) the time by which work is likely to be started on this project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Government have approved pollution abatement schemes of the rivers Krishna and Godavari in the States of Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh under the National River Conservation Plan. The State-wise and town-wise approved cost of the schemes are given below:

State/river	Towns	Approved cost (Rs. in crore)
1. MAHARASHTRA		
(i) Krishna	Karad	13.31
	Sangli	14.84
(ii) Godavari	Nashik	68.89
	Nanded	14.50
		111.54
2. ANDHRA PRADESH		
(i) Godavri	Mancharial	4.57
	Bhadrachalam	2.94
	Rajamundry	23.90
	Ramagundam	19.74
		51.15

(d) Out of the approved amount of Rs.111.54 crore of the Action Plans of Maharashtra State, the cost of land of Rs.7.13 crore will be borne by the State Government and the balance cost of Rs.104.41 crore will be provided by the Central Government.

(e) The work on this project has already started. Amounts of Rs.2.57 crore and Rs.5.81 crore have been released by the Central Government so far to the Governments of Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh respectively.

Development Project for Kotti Kottapuram Inland Waterway

2376. SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Kerala has submitted any recommendation for the Kotti-Kottapuram inland waterway development project; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and response of the Government therefor?

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

(b) The Government of Kerala had submitted a proposal for development of this waterway as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) at a cost of Rs.321.21 lakhs with 100% central assistance and later confirmed for taking this scheme under CSS (50% central loan assistance). The scheme is under consideration of the Government.

Dubious Foreign Universities

2377. SHRI SURESH WARPUDKAR : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether some dubious foreign universities are collecting millions of dollars as fees from resident Indian students who have enrolled themselves for various specialised management and other courses run by these foreign universities and their Indian affiliates;

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government in this regard;

(c) whether degrees offered by these foreign universities are recognised by UGC or All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE); and

(a) if so, the details of the recognised courses?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a) and (b) The legality of foreign universities or branches thereof functioning in the country has been challenged before the Madras High Court on a Petition moved by one Shri R. Sethuraman and the whole issue is subjudice. While the case is yet to be finally disposed off, the Hon'ble Court has permitted such universities to operate in the country subject to certain restrictions till the final disposal of the case.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Question does not arise.

[Translation]

Non-formal Education Projects in Rajasthan

2378. SHRI RAMPAL UPADHYAY : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the details and names of the projects for which assistance has been provided under the non-formal education scheme to Rajasthan during each of the last three years;

(b) whether the Government have received any representation in this regard; and

(c) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a) Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Non-Formal Education (NFE), financial assistance as per details given below was provided to Rajasthan during the last three years.

Year	Amount released (Rs. in Lakhs)
1995-96	703.64
1996-97	1423.47
1997-98	1544.01

(b) and (c) A representation from Rajasthan Non-Formal Education Workers' Union has been received in which it has been alleged that the Government of Rajasthan is proposing to replace the Supervisors working under the NFE Scheme. Rajasthan Government has been requested to furnish their comments on the said representation.

[English]

Setting up of Software Technology University

2379. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up Software Technology University in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of universities proposed to be set up?

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.

[Translation]

Power Generation of Power Station in Bihar

2380. SHRI RAJO SINGH : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :