to Questions

Note: In case Punjab and Lakshadweep funds diverted to JRY/IAY.

## Light Rail Transit System

2768. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Karnataka Government had requested to hike the equity participation of atleast Rs. 500 crores in the Elevated Light Rail Transit System in Bangalore; and
- (b) if so, the action or proposed to be taken by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU): (a) The Government of Karnataka have requested the Government of India for equity participation to the tune of about Rs. 500 crores for the Elevated Light Rail Transit System (ELRTS) in Bangalore.

(b) At present, the Government of Karnataka is preparing the Detailed Project Report and Economic and Financial Analysis for the project. The Government of Karnataka have been requested to expendite the completion of these Reports to enable the Government of India to take appropriate action with regard to the participation in the equity of the ELRTS project in Bangalore.

[Translation]

## Utilisation of Barren Land

2769. SHRI PAWAN DIWAN: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of barren land utilised and brought under cultivation after the constitution of Barren Land Development Department in July, 1992;
- (b) the present position of projects started under Integrated Barren Land Development Project in Watersheds of maximum non-forest barren land; and
- (c) the future schemes and programmes of the Government for the development of barren land?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VARMA): (a) and (b) In the Department of Wastelands Development, under the

scheme "Integrated Wastelands Development Project" the projects for treatment of non-forest wastelands are sanctioned. The mandate of the Wastelands Development Department is development of wastelands in non-forest areas aimed at checking land degradation, putting such wastelands in the country to sustainable use for increasing bio-mass availability specially fuel-wood and fodder and not really to bring them under cultivation. Since creation of the Department in July, 1992, a total number of 146 projects have been sanctioned under IWDP scheme at a total outlay of Rs. 38357.01 lakhs for a period ranging from 4 to 5 years.

- (c) Besides the scheme of Integrated Wastelands Development Projects, the Department has got the following other schemes for development of wastelands for enlisting people's participation and harnessing Science and Technology for planning and implementation of wastelands Development. These schemes are:
  - 1. Support to NGOs/Voluntary Agencies.
  - 2. Technology Development, Extension and Training Scheme.
  - 3. Investment Promotional Scheme
  - 4. Wastelands Development Task Force

These schemes are likely to continue.

[English]

## Sharavathi/Shimsha Shivanasamudram Hydel Project

2770. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the National Thermal Power Corporation has sanctioned funds for repairs/modernisation of Sharavathi and Shimsha Shivanasamudram Hydel units in Karnataka during 1996-97;
  - (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the time by which the work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.