

SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV : Will the school be set up there after the completion of enquiry.?

SHRI ARJUN SINGH : Yes, why not.

[English]

SHRIMATI BASAVA RAJESWARI : I would like to know whether it has come to the notice of the Government that admissions to Navodaya Schools are very much restricted to boys or girls coming from rural areas, which would cause lot of inconvenience to the children coming from small towns and municipalities with a population of below 25,000. If so, will the Government think of revising the policy and see that children who are studying in the small cities and municipalities with a population below 25,000 will also get admission in the Navodaya Schools?

SHRI ARJUN SINGH : Basically, the schools are being opened in the rural areas and I would not like to say something which may interfere with the total concept. The Member has made a suggestion. I will see what can be done in the matter.

SHRI RAM NAIK : The last Janata Dal Government had informed this House that they would not open new Navodaya Vidyalayas until the functioning of the Vidyalayas which have been already established is assessed fully. Has this Government decided to change the policy?

SHRI ARJUN SINGH : The policy to open Navodaya Vidyalayas is very much part of the 1986 policy. We have reiterated that this would continue. That would continue and that would not be disturbed. So far as improvement in the system is concerned, hon. Members are most welcome to make any suggestions and I will try to see that they are acted upon within framework of the policy already accepted.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has stated that 275 schools have been opened.

But the condition of schools is very deplorable. Some schools do not have their own building and in some schools there are no teachers. I would like to request the hon. Minister to examine the functioning of these schools and take steps to improve the condition of the schools already functioning. Will the hon. Minister please look into the matter?

SHRI ARJUN SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, there can be no two opinions in this regard and it will definitely be done.

DR. LAXMI NARAYAN PANDEYA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to point out to the hon. Minister that in view of the standard of education imparted in Navodaya Vidyalayas, more and more people, especially the people of rural areas, where the standard of education in the schools is not up to the mark, are interested in admitting their children in these schools. In view of the above, I would like to know whether the Government proposes to increase the number of Navodaya Vidyalayas and also to increase the strength of students in the schools, already functioning.

SHRI ARJUN SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I will definitely see what could be done within the present financial constraints.

SHRI TEJSINGHRAO BHONSLE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, there are 30 districts in Maharashtra. I would like to know whether Navodaya Vidyalayas have been opened in all the districts.

SHRI ARJUN SINGH : As per information available with me, these schools have been opened only in 19 districts of the State.

ECOLOGICAL TASK FORCE IN HIMACHAL PRADESH

*27. **PROF. PREM DHUMAL :** Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposal or request from the State Government of Himachal Pradesh for setting up an Ecological Task Force comprising of Ex-servicemen; and

(b) if so, the action taken thereon?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Action could not be taken on this project in the context of overall availability of funds.

[Translation]

PROF. PREM DHUMAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in his reply the hon. Minister has stated that action could not be taken on this project in the context of overall availability of funds. Through you, I would like to know from the hon. Minister the names of three States where the provision for setting up an Ecological Task Force was made in 1983 when originally this proposal was made by several States. Is it a fact that in two out of these three States, Ecological Task Force has already been set up and that only Himachal Pradesh is left without it?

SHRI KAMAL NATH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is true that task force was proposed to be set up in Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Himachal Pradesh. But due to the non-availability of funds it could not be set up in Himachal Pradesh.

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: If it was not set up by the previous Government, let it be set up now.

SHRI KAMAL NATH: It was your Government. The Government of Himachal Pradesh did what they could. But as the funds were not allocated for this purpose in the Budget, the proposal could not materialize.

PROF. PREM DHUMAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether it was true that without obtaining the approval of the Cabinet, an Ecological Task Force was set up in Jammu and Kashmir in 1988 and Himachal Pradesh was again neglected. Will the Government provide funds for it? The whole of the world is trying to save the environment from pollution and foreign aid can be obtained for this purpose.

SHRI KAMAL NATH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is true that this scheme was launched in Jammu and Kashmir in 1988. But it was only due to the special circumstances prevailing in that valley. Now Himachal Pradesh will positively be covered in the Eighth Plan on priority basis and efforts will be made to allocate adequate funds for the purpose.

SHRI KRISHAN DUTT SULTANPURI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Himachal Pradesh Government launched 'Van Lagao, Rozi Kamao' scheme. RSS and BJP are trying to engage their own men in this scheme. The State Government has been committing bunglings in regard to forest wealth. . . . (Interruptions) I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether any enquiry will be conducted into it.

SHRI KAMAL NATH: 'Van Lagao, Rozi Kamao' project was submitted to the centre for approval only a few months back, and it was not approved. Now a revised scheme has been proposed, which I referred to in my speeches during the last ten days; and also discussed the various features of the revised version with the Forest Minister and the Chief Minister of the State and also with the other officials. Through you, I would like to assure my friend that BJP would not get an opportunity to provide berth to RSS or their party workers. (Interruptions).

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I seek your protection. Please make it clear to the hon. Minister that he is not speaking in the meeting of AICC, he is giving a reply in Parliament as a Minister. Just now he has been exposed in replying to two supplementary questions. It has been stated that task force was assured to be set up in three States. However two States were covered in the project and Himachal Pradesh was left. At the same time the same project was implemented in Jammu and Kashmir even without the approval of the Cabinet. It is evidence that since the previous Government did not accomplish the task, the present Government is also reluctant to do it. I would like to know the amount allocated for this purpose to Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Jammu & Kashmir and the amount provided to launch the scheme in J&K due to which,

you have excluded Himachal Pradesh from having the Task Force. When did you receive the first proposal and when did the other one?

SHRI KAMAL NATH: When the scheme was approved, the plan allocation was Rs. 750 lakh. It was meant to be invested in Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Himachal Pradesh. But the whole amount of allocation had been utilized in Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan from 1983 to 1988.

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : During that period your Government was in power in all these three States.

SHRI KAMAL NATH: Are you asking me or do you want to reply yourself. In 1988, due to the special circumstances prevailing in Jammu and Kashmir Rs. 33 lakh only were to be paid by the State while fifty-two lakh rupees were to be paid by the centre. For Jammu and Kashmir it was a very nominal amount because it was a small scheme. I have already stated in my reply that I assure that the priority will be given to Himachal Pradesh in the Eighth Plan as the

State has fulfilled their promise of growing nurseries. There is a scheme costing Rs. 416 lakhs to be implemented in Kangra district. Therefore, priority will be given to Kangra district.

[English]

DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

*30. **SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI:** Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the progress of a large number of developmental projects is held up due to delayed 'forests clearance' by the Union Government; and

(b) the number of proposals received from the States for such clearance till 15th June 1991 and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

Status of receipt and disposal of proposals received from the States/UT Governments seeking forestry clearance for various development projects is as under :—

(i) Proposals received	4482
(ii) Proposals approved	2291
(iii) Proposals rejected on merit	655
(iv) Proposals rejected for non-furnishing of essential details by the States/UTs.	1213
(v) Proposals withdrawn by respective States/UTs	110
(vi) Proposals pending in the Ministry	213

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, although the Minister has replied to my question in the negative and said that the progress of a large number of developmental projects is not held up due to delayed forest clearance, it is our common knowledge that in respect of a large number of developmental projects in the States, the progress of the work is held up due to delay in clearance by the Government of India.

So, I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to whether there is any deadline fixed or there is any time-schedule for the clearance of such projects which are received from the States. If so, what is the time-schedule? Out of the total number of 213 proposals which are stated to be pending in the Ministry as on 15th June, which is the oldest case; how many cases are pending for more than three years; and how many cases are pending