

Site Museum and a Sub-office at Jajpur, Orissa

*195. **Shri Anadi Charan Das** : Will the Minister of Human Resource Development be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any demand for setting up a 'Site Museum' and a Sub-office at Jajpur for Archaeological Survey of India in Cuttack district of Orissa for better upkeep and preservation of ancient monuments of Buddhist and Jainism in importance; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

The Minister of Human Resource Development (Shri Arjun Singh) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) (i) The Government are unable to consider the demand to set up a site museum until land is available.

(ii) It is not considered necessary to open a sub-circle office at Jajpur at present.

Pollution in Bombay and Thane

*196. **Prof. Ram Kapse** : Will the Minister of Environment and Forests be pleased to state :

(a) the number of tribal people affected in Thane area due to pollution; and

(b) the measures taken to reduce or control the pollution in Bombay and Thane areas?

The Minister of State of the Ministry of Environment and Forests (Shri Kamal Nath) : (a) There are no reports of any widespread effect of pollution on the tribal population in Thane area. However, there is a report of 38 persons and 445 cattle being affected due to metal poisoning in one case.

(b) The following measures have been taken to control pollution in Bombay and Thane areas :

(i) Ambient air and water quality standards have been prescribed.

(ii) Standards for air and water polluting industries have been prescribed under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

(iii) Environmental guidelines have been evolved for siting and operation of industries.

(iv) The Central Government has prepared a time-bound action plan for control of pollution, in consultation with the State Government, under which polluting units are required to meet the standards by 31st December, 1991.

Delegation of Powers to States under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980

*197. **Shri Sushil Chandra Verma** : Will the Minister of Environment and Forests be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government propose to delegate to States the powers under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 to grant permission for cutting of trees in forest lands for developmental projects and also to keep out of the purview of the Act such projects initiated prior to October 25, 1980 without insisting on compensatory afforestation ;

(b) whether the delay in granting such permission has over run the cost of the projects ;

(c) whether the Union Government now propose to grant the permission at the earliest for the purpose ;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ;

(e) the recommendations made by the Sarkaria Commission in regard to Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 ; and

(f) the follow-up action taken thereon ?

The Minister of State of the Ministry of Environment and Forests (Shri Kamal Nath) : (a) No, Sir.

Projects will not require prior approval of Central Government if specific orders for demarcation or diversion of forest areas were issued prior to 25.10.1980.

(b) to (d) : When project proposals are submitted complete in all respects conforming to the prescribed guidelines, such cases are quickly disposed of and they do not lead to cost overruns. Incomplete proposals are referred back to the State Government for furnishing lacking essential details.

Permission can be granted on merits only after complete information is furnished by the State Government regarding proposals for forest diversion under the Act.

(e) and (f) : A Statement is attached.

Statement

(e) Sarkaria Commission made certain recommendations in respect of forests. Relevant paras are reproduced as under:—

15.5.01 : In view of a large number of cases referred under Section 2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 having been 'closed' there is need for reviewing them to identify the reasons. A senior officer of the Ministry of Environment and Forests and Wildlife should examine all such cases which have been disposed of as 'closed', identify the reasons and inform the States. Cases which are required to be followed by the States should be reopened and decided on their merits after discussion with the representatives of the concerned State Governments.

15.5.02 : Powers should be delegated to the States to divert, to a small extent, say not exceeding 5 hectares of reserved forest lands, which are urgently required for specific public purposes.

15.5.03 : Conservation and improvement of forest resources is of

utmost importance to the nation. A concerted action by both the Union and the States is imperative. At the same time, it is necessary to ensure that development efforts are not hampered. A bi-annual review of pending cases should be carried out in consultation with each State Government concerned. This occasion should also be utilised for reviewing the sanctions by virtue of powers recommended by us to be delegated to them.

15.5.04 : In the case of large projects involving significant extent of submersion of reserved forests, their diversion to non-forest uses, clearance under Section 2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, should be given as far as possible simultaneously with project clearance by the Union Government. Agency of the Union Government may be associated from the beginning with the formulation of the project so that adequate measures not only to compensate for the loss of reserved forests but also to improve forest resources, can be built into them *ab-initio*.

(f) **Present status regarding Implementation of Recommendations of Sarkaria Commission :** The report of the Sarkaria Commission on forests is being examined by the Government. At present the matter is referred to the Inter-State Council to elicit their views on the report.

[Translation]

Increase of Seats at Indian Institutes of Technology

*198. **Shri Dileep Singh Bhuria :** Will the Minister of Human Resource Development be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to increase the number of seats in certain subjects at the Indian Institutes of Technology situated at