

(b) whether the Government have cleared the cement plant from the environmental point of view;

(c) whether the Government propose to review the project in order to save the environment;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) to (e). Government of Meghalaya has sought environmental clearance for setting up a 0.6 million tonne per annum cement plant by Associated Cement Company at Siju, South Garo Hills, Meghalaya. The State Government has informed that Rapid EIA/EMP Study has been initiated in this regard and would be completed by June, 1996. A view will be taken on the proposal after the receipt of the EIA/EMP report.

Shortage of Coaches

656. SHRI V.M. SUDHEERAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) whether Government are aware of the acute shortage of coaches in Trivandrum Railway Division, and

(b) if so, the steps taken so far to made available sufficient number of coaches to avoid inconvenience to the passengers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b). Within the over-all availability, adequate number of coaches are available with Trivandrum Division to meet the present level of traffic.

[Translation]

Implementation of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980

657. SHRI BACHEE SINGH RAWAT BACHDA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state

(a) whether the various schemes including road construction have come to a standstill in the Uttaranchal area in Uttar Pradesh since the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 came into force;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to give any special concession for commencing the construction work on the Government schemes so that people may get benefit of the development schemes;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) & (c). Do not arise. However, a concession has already been provided to expedite clearance under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 in hill districts for projects which involve transfer upto 20 ha. of forest land and directly benefit the people of the area. In such projects, which include construction of link roads, small waterworks, minor irrigation works, school buildings, dispensaries, hospitals, tiny rural industrial sheds of the Government, identification and transfer of equivalent non-forest land for compensatory afforestation is not insisted and instead compensatory afforestation can be done over degraded forest land twice in extent of area being diverted.

(d) Does not arise.

National River Conservation Plan

658. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of National River Conservation Plan, amount earmarked, the targets fixed for completion of the Plan, river-wise ;

(b) the amount sanctioned and released so far, river-wise;

(c) the progress made so far, river-wise, and

(d) the request/proposals forwarded by the State Governments to the Union Government under the Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) to (d). The Government approved the National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) on 3rd July 1995 as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on equal sharing basis of the capital cost of works between the Central and the concerned State Governments. The sanctioned cost of works under the NRCP is about Rs 772 crores to be spread over a period of 10 years. The details regarding the towns, rivers in various States including the sanctioned cost of works State-wise, besides other details, are given in the enclosed statement.

So far, 65 Detailed Project Reports of works have been approved by the Central Government. The concerned State Governments are in the process of implementing them. After commencement of works in a town, it would take about 4 years to complete these works. The works are staggered and it is likely that it will take about 10 years to complete all the works under NRCP.