

connected by the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd., in Delhi on assigning any reason even after the payment of the bill and this practice continues for the months;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to take any effective steps to check this evil practice; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) to (c) No Sir, normally telephones are disconnected due to non payment of dues. However, a telephone may also be disconnected despite payment of dues, due to late receipt of information about payment or due to non payment or dues on account of other services/telephones provided to the subscriber, etc.

[English]

#### **Forest Land for Non-Forest Purposes**

2961. SHRI ANANT KUMAR HEGDE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of total area of forest land diverted for non forest purposes during the last three years;

(b) whether the Government has drawn any action plan to develop alternate forest in lieu of this; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) During the last three years 86,810 hectare of forest land has been diverted for non-forest purposes under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

(b) While approving a proposal for diversion of forest land, the Ministry stipulates the condition of compensatory afforestation on non-forest area or on degraded forest land at the cost of the project proponent in order to compensate loss of forest land due to diversion.

(c) After enactment of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, so far compensatory afforestation has been stipulated over 5,35,227 hectare, out of which it has been done over 3,10,079 hectare.

#### **Cogentrix Power Project**

2962. PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of the proposed 1000 MW Cogentrix Power Project near Mangalore;

(b) whether this project has received counter guarantee from the Union Government; and

(c) if not, the reasons for the delay?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARA-MANGALAM): (a) to (c) The 1000 MW Mangalore power project promoted by M/s Cogentrix has obtained most of the

required inputs/clearances including the techno-economic clearance of the Central Electricity Authority. The project has not yet received the counter guarantee from the Government of India. Further steps for the issuance of the counter guarantee will be taken up after the verdict of the Supreme Court, on an appeal filed by the Government of Karnataka, against the Judgement of High Court of Karnataka, on the Public Interest Writ Petition No. 10696/97 is available.

#### **Jaisalmer Fort**

2963. Col. SONA RAM CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) have made any action plan to save Jaisalmer Fort which is 850 years old;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) whether unauthorised construction is coming up in the Jaisalmer Fort;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether Jaisalmer Fort has been declared as a National Monument; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) and (b) The Archaeological Survey of India has plans to undertake repairs to lower fortification wall on the north and east, restoration of collapsed portion of the lower fortification wall on the north, repairs to bastion, parapet and the damaged portion of upper fortification wall, and repairs to fort wall between Surajpole and Ganeshprole.

(c) and (d) There exists modern habitation within the fort area. Efforts are continuously being made through the local authorities to contain unauthorised modern constructions and additions and alterations to the existing structures being carried out by the people. The Archaeological Survey of India has issued showcause notices to the people violating the provisions of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958 and Rules, 1959 thereof. Some of these people have challenged the action of the Archaeological Survey of India in the Hon'ble High Court of Rajasthan. The matter is, therefore, sub-judice.

(e) The upper and lower fortifications of the Jaisalmer Fort are declared as of national importance.

(f) Question does not arise.

#### **Ganga Action Plan**

2964. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government have been drawn to the news-item appearing in Telegraph dated May 16, 1998 captioned 'Centre Grounds Ganga Plan in State';