

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (c) A proposal for amendment of the Press Council Act and related rules/regulations has been received recently. As the proposal includes legislative amendments, consultations at various levels including inter-ministerial consultations are essential before taking a view in the matter.

A two-day International Conference of the World Association of Press Councils was held on April 4-5, 1998 in New Delhi.

- (d) Information is given in the Statement attached.

#### Statement

*The International Conference of the World Association of Press Councils discussed on the following topics:*

- (i) The World Press and the Indian Press during the last 50 years—a critical review,
- (ii) The Right to Privacy, and
- (iii) The Transnational Complaints Machinery.

*Conclusions and recommendations of the Conference:*

- (i) That the creation, development and enhancement of Press Councils should be encouraged worldwide;
- (ii) That a responsible media should respect the privacy of all people;
- (iii) That, the media may only intrude on the privacy of a person including a public figure where it is clearly in the public interest;
- (iv) That the principles of a free and a responsible media apply equally to new technological methods for the delivery of news and information, education and entertainment, including the internet and satellite transmission;
- (v) That these principles also apply to news and information transmitted, published or sold across national boundaries;
- (vi) That there is a need for transnational application of the highest media standards.

#### Outlay on Higher Education

3706. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether investment on Higher education during the past five years has given positive results;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the investment on Higher Education during the said period, state-wise and year-wise; and
- (d) the number of graduates passed out from Universities during these years?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Investments in Higher Education are important for economic growth. Higher Education contributed to the growth of the country. Institutions of higher education have the responsibility of equipping individuals with the advanced knowledge and skills required for positions of responsibility in various fields. The investments in higher education during the past five years had enabled the enrolment of students to go up from 52.65 lakhs to 67.55 lakhs; and the number of universities and colleges from 177 and 7346 to 214 and 9703 respectively.

(c) and (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

#### Climate Change in COP III

3707. PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is contemplating to change their stand on climate change taken in COP III at Kyoto;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) If not, the measures taken to bring in the question of Equity as an essential element in Emissions Trading globally?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The consistent Indian position has been that a fundamental step in developing emissions trading globally is the determination and creation of equitable emission entitlements of the parties.

#### Transmission Capacity of AIR, Sami Distt., Maharashtra

[Translations]

3708. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

- (a) the transmission capacity of All India Radio Station located at Sami district in Maharashtra;
- (b) the amount allocated during the last three years for the development of this station, year-wise;
- (c) the reasons for restricting it as relay centre only;
- (d) whether necessary infrastructure and equipments are available at this radio station for transmitting Vividh Bharti and other programmes; and
- (e) if so, the time by which it is likely to be made a regular AIR station?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) There is no district by name Sami in Maharashtra.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

### Power Projects in Gujarat

[English]

3709. DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of power projects submitted by Gujarat under the consideration of the Union Government for approval;

(b) whether the Government propose to hold a meeting with the State Government in order to accord approval to these projects;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the expected quantum of power generation from the projects submitted by the State Government in the year 1996-97 and 1997-98?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) and (d) The following power projects in Gujarat are under consideration in the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) for accord of Techno-economic Clearance (TEC).

Sl. No.	Name of Project	Capacity (MW)
1.	Jamnagar TPP Ph. I	2x250
2.	Akrimota	2x125

(b) and (c) Techno-economic clearance for these projects is subject to typing up of all the necessary inputs, including reasonableness of the capital costs. Periodic discussions are held with the State Government/project proponents for expedite clearance of these projects.

### Ash Utilisation Policy

3710. SHRIMATI ABHA MAHTO:

SHRI ANANT KUMAR HEGDE:

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the NTPC have recently developed a technology to the commercial utilisation of flyash;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof;

(c) whether the private sector companies intend to purchase flyash from National Thermal Power Corporation;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the extent to which the use of flyash would minimise the environmental hazard; and

(f) the measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to popularise the flyash made projects?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) and (b) National Thermal Power Corporation Limited (NTPC) in association with IIT Kanpur, has developed a technology to use fly ash for embankment-making for raising embankment of its ash dykes.

The embankment consists of core made out of ash taken from the ash pond. The technology is similar to that of earthen embankment. For compaction of ash, vibratory rollers are used, and 95% of Standard Proctor Density is achieved. In order to avoid erosion and dust emission, the ash core is given a 0.5 meter thick non-erodable soil cover. This technology has been successfully used by NTPC for raising embankment of its ash dyke at Korba, Singrauli, Badarpur and Balco Captive Power Plant.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Presently many private companies have been taken fly-ash free from NTPC plants. During the year 1997-98. NTPC have issued about 9 lakhs Metric Tonne of fly ash to private sector companies for manufacture of cement and asbestos based products. In addition fly ash has also been issued for use in brick manufacturing, cement concrete and autoclaved aerated concrete products.

(e) The greater the use of fly ash, the lesser the possibility of air pollution and contamination of surface/ground water.

(f) The measures taken by the Government to popularise fly ash include:

(i) exemption of excise duty on the production of building materials using fly ash in 25% or more quantity as raw materials;

(ii) exemption of customs duty on the import of machinery and tools required for the production of fly ash based building material products such as bricks, light weight aggregates, light weight cellular concrete etc.;

(iii) The Ministry of Environment & Forests in its Notification of 3rd April, 1996 stipulated that all brick manufacturing units situated within a radius of 50 kms. from any thermal power plant shall use fly ash optimally for making bricks.

(iv) Clay brick kilns operating in Delhi have been asked in terms of Supreme Court order either to shift or change their units into ash based units.

(v) Sales Tax benefits are given by some State Governments for production of ash based products.

(vi) The CPWD has recently formulated specifications permitting the use of clay-flyash bricks in their construction works.

(vii) Extension of financial support by National Housing Bank (NHB) and Housing and Urban Development Corporation (HUDCO) to promote industrial units for production of building materials based on flyash.