

Construction of Guest Houses from GAP Funds

993. SHRI DAROGA PRASAD SAROJ: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some amount out of total amount allocated for Ganga Action Plan has been diverted for the construction of Guest Houses;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the total amount spent thereon;

(d) whether the Government have taken any action in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) to (e) U.P. Jal Nigam had diverted Rs. 4.265 lakhs for the construction of a guest house at Haridwar from the funds allocated for Ganga Action Plan. The expenditure incurred on the construction of the guest house was not accepted by National River Conservation Directorate of this Ministry. The above diversion was brought to the notice of U.P. Government to examine the matter and take necessary action. The U.P. Jal Nigam has informed that on the orders of U.P. Government, they have transferred the above expenditure to their other project head and that it is not being charged to the Ganga Action Plan.

No amount has been diverted from the Ganga Action Plan for the construction of guest houses in Bihar and West Bengal.

[English]

**Compensation for setting up
Petroleum Refinery**

994. SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an agitation is going on by the local people losing their land for the setting up of the proposed petroleum refinery at Paradeep, Orissa with regard to the rate of compensation;

(b) if so, the rate of compensation offered by the Government; and

(c) the measures the Government intend to take to pacify the persons involved in the agitation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) IOC have filed an application with Orissa Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation (OIIDCO), Bhubaneswar for acquisition of land for the Eastern India Refinery Project at Paradip. The land acquisition is in progress.

Environment Courts and Tribunals

995. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court has proposed that all environment courts, tribunals and appellate authorities should include a sitting or retired High Court or Supreme Court Judge and Scientist or group of scientists; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Hon'ble Supreme Court in its judgement dated January 27, 1999 in respect of civil appeal Nos. 368-371 of 1999 arising out of SLP(C) Nos. 10317-10320 of 1998 has observed that "...the Government of India should, in our opinion, bring about appropriate amendments in the environmental statutes, Rules and notification to ensure that in all environmental Courts, Tribunals and appellate authorities there is always a Judge of the rank of a High Court Judge or a Supreme Court Judge, — sitting or retired — and Scientist or group of Scientists of high ranking and experience so as to help a proper and fair adjudication of disputes relating to environment and pollution..". The National Environment Tribunal Act, 1995 and the National Environment Appellate Authority Act, 1997 contain commensurate provisions.

[Translation]

Petrol/LPG Agencies in Bihar

996. SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH:
SHRI PRABHASH CHANDRA TIWARI:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of L.P.G. agencies and petrol pumps separately working in Bihar as on date;