

action oriented network of 40 research laboratories spread throughout the country with the mission of providing scientific and industrial R&D that maximises the economic, environmental and societal benefits for the people of India. CSIR carries out R&D of value not only to industry but also to other sectors of economy such as agriculture, aerospace, health, power utilities, mining, defence etc. It carries out R&D in areas of national priority with a long term impact, size or complexity that are vital to the national security, and the future well being and economic growth of the country. The CSIR's scientific and technological annual average output comprises publications of nearly 2000 research/technical/learned papers, development of 100 new technologies and signing of 200 agreements for new industrial production in diverse areas.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

#### Excavation Work by Allahabad University

1230. SHRI CHANDRAMANI TRIPATHI : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Archaeological Department of Allahabad University has made any excavation in Pandapurva (Amilkoni) village in Rewa district;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the recovered articles have any historical value;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the plan drawn for the development of the said site?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. The Department of Ancient History Culture and Archaeology, University of Allahabad, Allahabad (U.P.) are conducting on-going excavations beginning in 1997-98 at Amilkoni village in Rewa district, Madhya Pradesh. The excavation has brought to light two-fold cultural sequence consisting of period I, yielding material from the middle to late phase of the Northern Black Polished Ware culture, and period II of the Kushana period with a transitional phase between the two—all phases together dating from the 4th/3rd century B.C. to 2nd/3rd century A.D. Items like potteries and miscellaneous objects of copper, iron, bone, semi-precious stones, terracottas, coins and profuse iron slags of historical value have been collected from the excavation.

#### Development of Sanctuaries and National Parks in Gujarat

1231. SHRI JAYSINHJI CHAUHAN : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government of Gujarat has sent any schemes relating to the development of sanctuaries, national parks and forest wealth;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether sanction has not been accorded to some of these schemes;

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor; and

(e) the time by which final decision would be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Proposals for Rs. 85 lakhs have been received from the State Gujarat.

(c) and (d) Proposals worth Rs. 26.65 lakhs have not been accorded approval as they are not as per the guidelines issued by the Government of India.

(e) Does not arise.

[English]

#### Bio-Technology Projects

1232. SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have formulated any special scheme/programme based on bio-technology for the benefit of SC/ST population in some States like Meghalaya;

(b) if so, whether any new projects have been identified under this scheme for the State of Meghalaya;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Meghalaya offers abundant scope for cultivation of Aromatic & Medicinal plants because of its agro-climate conditions with perennial rainfall; and

(e) if so, the details thereof including the steps proposed to be taken for harnessing them?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Department of Biotechnology has formulated a scheme - "Biotechnology based