

Power Project (1082 MW) of M/s Central India Power Company (CIPCO) in Maharashtra and 250 MW single unit lignite based Neyveli Thermal Power Project of M/s ST-CMS Electric Company in Tamil Nadu.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.

#### National Highways for Vidharbha Region

1185. SHRI R.S. GAVAI : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the details of National Highways already in existence and planned for the Vidharbha region of Maharashtra;

(b) whether any proposal is pending to develop National Highway connecting all the districts of Vidharbha region;

(c) whether any foreign investment has been made in the offing for construction of National Highways in Vidharbha region of Maharashtra; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) An aggregate length of 870 Km. is already in existence in the Vidharbha Region of the Maharashtra State as per details given below :

Sl.No.	N.H.No.	length in km.
1.	6	509
2.	7	252
3.	16	50
4.	69	59

Further, there is no new National Highway planned for the Vidharbha region at present.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

#### Forests in J&K

1186. SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the total area covered by the forests in J&K;

(b) the total area deforested during last three years;

(c) the reasons for deforesting on such a large scale and steps taken by the Government for preventing it;

(d) whether a large number of flash floods are occurring every year in J&K due to deforestation; and

(e) if so, the steps taken by the Government to prevent them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI) : (a) The forest cover in the State of Jammu & Kashmir is 20,440 sq.km as per State of Forest Report, 1997.

(b) and (c) The latest State of Forest Report, 1997 gives the change of forest cover pertaining to the period October-November, 1992 to Nov, 1995. During this period, there has been an increase of forest cover by 7 sq.km. in the State of Jammu & Kashmir.

(d) and (e) As per the State of Forest Report 1997, there has been no change in the forest cover as well as in the density of the forest in the state of Jammu & Kashmir and in view of this the question does not arise.

#### Courses in High Technology

1187. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Will the Minister HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the details of vocational courses already integrated with mainstream educational courses in various central and other universities and colleges in General and particularly in University of Delhi;

(b) whether the Government plan to introduce more courses in High Technology in Universities and colleges and establish more institutions providing such courses;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the time by which these are likely to be introduced; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.