

(d) the steps taken by the Government to remove the obstructions in implementation of the said project?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI): (a) to (c) Construction of Shahdara-Partap Nagar section of the rail corridor of Delhi MRTS Project would require felling of 5199 trees. The Delhi Metro Rail Corporation Ltd. has sought permission for felling of these trees under 'The Delhi Preservation of Trees Act, 1994'. Permission has been granted by Govt. of NCT of Delhi for felling 140 trees so far. The Forest Department of the Govt. of NCT of Delhi is of the view that a part of the land on which trees are located is forest land and has, therefore, taken up the matter with the Ministry of Environment & Forest, Government of India under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

(d) Frequent and periodical meetings are held between the representatives of the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation Ltd., the Government of NCT of Delhi and the Ministry of Urban Affairs & Employment, to sort out various issues which include this issue also.

Construction of Cultural Centre

1980. SHRI SHAILENDBA KUMAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any plan to construct any cultural centre in newly formed districts of Uttar Pradesh particularly in Kaushambi district keeping in view of its historical and religious importance;

(b) if so, the time by which the said plan is likely to be implemented; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) to (c) Under the scheme for setting up of Multi-purpose Cultural Complexes in States, including those for children, financial assistance upto Rs. 1 crore is provided to an autonomous body, on the recommendation of the State Government for construction of a Cultural Complex. No proposal for a Cultural Complex in Kaushambi district of UP has been received as yet.

[English]

Shortage of Creches

1981. SHRI AJIT JOGI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the problem and hardship being faced by the working women with children, in New Delhi, due to the shortage of creches in their locality;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to solve this problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS, SPORTS, WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (KUMARI UMA BHARATI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Due to constraint of resources, Government of India is presently able to support 277 creches in Delhi.

Bhopal Gas Tragedy

1982. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA:
SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made so far in providing relief and compensation for damages to Bhopal gas victims;

(b) whether the Government have ensured Bhopal Gas Peedit Mahila Udyog Sangathan for relief and justice to these victims; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. A.K. PATEL): (a) According to the information sent by the Office of the Welfare Commissioner, Bhopal Gas Victims, total compensation of approximately Rs. 996 crore has been disbursed upto 31.12.98 after adjudicating 7,30,901 claims. In addition, a total outlay of Rs. 258 crore was approved for various rehabilitation schemes under the Action Plan prepared for Bhopal Gas Victims. This expenditure is to be shared between Central Government and State

Government in the ratio of 75:25. The Government of Madhya Pradesh has stated that it has spent Rs. 202.18 crore as on 31.12.98 on these schemes. Out of this amount, Central Government has released approximately Rs. 166 crore.

(b) and (c) While no such assurance has been given to Bhopal Gas Peedit Mahila Udyog Sangathan, the Government of India effort is to provide relief and justice to the Bhopal gas leak victims.

[Translation]

Price of Imported Commodities

1983. SHRI RAM NARAIN MEENA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the price of imported wheat, rice, pulses and edible oil etc. after adding all the administrative and other expenses is more than the procurement price of these items fixed for farmers; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV): (a) and (b) It is not possible to accurately compare the cost of imported agricultural products and the domestic procurement prices thereof fixed for farmers as they would depend on demand and supply position, consumer preferences, different varieties traded and other terms of trade.

[English]

Standards of Indian Science

1984. SHRI SADASHIV RAO DADORA MANDLIK: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the declining standards of Indian Science;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the major science policy decision taken at various high level meetings are not communicated to the working bench level scientists; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) and (b) Views have been expressed at different forums indicating that there has been a decline in basic research in science and technology during the last few years. However, in the field of Science & Technology, India has made significant achievements during the last five years in sectors like Agriculture, Atomic Energy, Space, Biotechnology, Ocean Development, Industrial Research, Biomedical Research, Computer Science etc.

(c) and (d) Most of the high level meetings involved in the policy decision making include working bench level scientists/academicians/technologists from the National labs, Universities and Institutes of Higher learning. In industry oriented R&D areas like Biotechnology, Drugs & Pharmaceuticals, Technology Development, instrument Development etc. The representatives from the relevant industry sector also participate in the decision making exercise. The National Science Academies, the Academy of Engineering and other similar active S&T Professional Bodies also play an important role in disseminating the policy decisions to the working bench level scientists. In addition, the scientific Journals also play an important role in communicating issues related to S&T Policy.

[Translation]

Sugar Mills in Bihar

1985. SHRI SURENDRA PRASAD YADAV (JHANJIHARPUR): Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of sugar mills operating under the Sugar Corporation in Bihar;

(b) the number of sugar mills facing closure in the State;

(c) the reasons for their closure;

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken for revival of these sick mills;

(e) whether the Government propose to modernise some of the mills in the State;

(f) if so, the details thereof, mill-wise; and