

(a) to (c). No, Sir; The National Environment Advisory Committee which was constituted in January, 1984 had met thrice during its tenure. In none of the three meetings of the Committee, any specific recommendation was made regarding setting up of a Central Land Commission for protection of ecology.

Desiltation of Rivers, Dams, Reservoirs in Rajasthan

6097. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the rate of soil erosion has increased due to deforestation of Arawal Mountain ranges in Rajasthan;

(b) if so, whether the eroded soil swept away in this process in rapidly silting Luni river flowing in West of Rajasthan, Paschchimi Banaye, Sabarmati, Marhi in South; Banas, Chambal, Banganga, Gambhir, Tarah in East and Sahibi, Kantli etc. in North valleys, dams and reservoirs; and

(c) the action being taken to desilt rivers, dams and reservoirs in Rajasthan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) to (c). Information is being collected and will be placed on the table of the house.

[English]

Health Hazards to Employees of Atomic Power Plants

6098. PROF. K. V. THOMAS: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether employees in the nuclear

power plants and rare earths factories have health hazards and disease due to radiation;

(b) the measures taken to protect the employees in the nuclear plants and rare earths factories;

(c) whether Government propose to include radiation as an environmental problem and set up a machinery to check the same;

(d) whether the radio active waste in the rare earths factories are developed with all precaution; and

(e) if so, the safety measures taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (PROF. M.G.K. MENON): (a) Employees in the Nuclear Power Plants and Rare Earths Plants have the same sort of occupational hazards as in those that use X-ray, radiation therapy units etc.

(b) Measures taken in this regard are as follows:

- (i) Built-in safety features such as shielding, ventilation system, remote handling, etc.
- (ii) Safety measures during operation. These measures ensure that radiation exposure to employees is within radiation protection standards and this is confirmed by personnel monitoring.

(c) The environmental effects of radiation are covered under Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The effluent treatment plant treats the liquid effluent to prescribed standards. The results of analysis of final effluents are under surveillance of Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) and also under State Pollution Control Board. The solid wastes are kept in 3" thick reinforced cement caskets (which are water tight) and stored in underground RCC trenches within plant site. This storage area is also under regular surveillance for radioactivity.

Army Regiments on Caste Basis

6099. SHRI HET RAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether many regiments in Indian Army have been named after certain castes like Rajputs, Mahars and Jats etc.;

(b) if so, the names of all such regiments;

(c) whether Government are planning to raise some more similar regiments;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether any study of social and national impact of naming certain regiments on castes has been made;

(f) if so, the details thereof.; and

(g) whether Government propose to change the names of such regiments in the national interest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. RAJA RAMANNA): (a) and (b). The regiments based on caste, and religious considerations formed before independence and still continuing under the same names are as under:

1. Jat Regiment.

2. Sikh Regiment.

3. Sikh Light Infantry Regiment.

4. Rajput Regiment.

5. Dogra Regiment.

6. Mahar Regiment and

7. Gorkha Regiment.

(c) Nor, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) and (f). Since Independence several studies have been carried out for 'Rationalisation of class composition of the entire Army'. The emphasis has been not to deny recruitment to any Indian national, irrespective of his class, caste, religion or region. The ultimate aim is to achieve All Class All India composition for all Arms and Services.

(g) No, Sir. The existing names are, being retained for historical reasons.

Development of forest Area in H. P.

6100. SHRI K. D. SULTANPURI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the schemes drawn up for developing forest areas in Himachal Pradesh; and

(b) the central assistance earmarked for the above purpose in the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) The following Centrally Sponsored Schemes are being implemented to develop forest resources in Himachal Pradesh: