

Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts

6107. SHRI RAM NAIK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to constitute the Board of Members of Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor, and the time by which it will be constituted?

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) and (b). No, Sir. The Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts (IGNCA) was constituted as an autonomous Trust on the 24th March, 1987 through a Deed of Declaration (Trust Deed) registered by the Sub-Registrar, New Delhi. In this is prescribed the number of Trustees, tenure of the office of Trustees and nomination of new Trustees; the procedure prescribed in this Deed has to be followed; and so the question of constituting a new Trust at the moment does not arise.

[*Translation*]

Construction Work Pending Clearance

6108. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to adopt a liberal attitude in granting approval to those construction work which are pending for clearance under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980;

(b) if not, whether Government are aware of the difficulties being faced by the people due to such disputed cases of construction; and

(c) the alternative steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

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). The various issues arising out of the implementation of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 were discussed by Central Government in the meeting of Forest Ministers of States held in May, 1989. Thereafter, the Central Government has the procedures and revised the guidelines issued under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. The steps taken in this regard include:

1. Diversion of forest land for construction of buildings for schools, hospitals, dispensaries, community halls, co-operatives, panchayats, tiny rural industrial-sheds of government etc. which are to be put up for the benefit of the people of that area are now to be considered but such diversions should be strictly limited to the actually needed area and should not exceed one hectare in each case.
2. In hill districts and in other districts having forest lands exceeding 50 per cent of the total geographical area, compensatory afforestation on non-forest land is not insisted upon and is permitted on degraded forest land twice in extent of the area diverted provided forest land involved is less than 5 hectares and the purpose of diversion is for construction of link, road, small water works, minor irrigation works, school building, dispensary, hospitals, tiny rural industrial shed of the government or any other similar work which directly benefit the people of the area.
3. Only those cases wherein forest area involved is more than 10 hectares are