

to inquire into the complaint. Based on the reports of these two Committees, the Research Associateship of one Scientist was terminated by C.S.I.R. Another Research Associate was suspended by the Vice-Chancellor. He was, however, reinstated after he got a regret letter published in the journal concerned.

The Executive Council in its meeting held on 17-19, October, 1989 considered the reports of the Committees and resolved that the Vice-Chancellor be authorised to take appropriate action regarding the theses submitted by research scholars involved in plagiarism. The University has debarred the three supervisors of these research scholars from guiding research for a period of five years. Two of them have also been made ineligible for promotion and placement in the higher scale for five years.

The Executive Council has expressed concern with the present state of research in BHU and referred the larger issue of improvement in standards of research to the Academic Council.

- (ii) According to the information furnished by Punjab University, the case relating to alleged "recycling of fossils" by Prof. V.J. Gupta of the Centre of Advanced Study in Geology at the University came to their notice in April, 1989. On request of the Vice-Chancellor, the Indian National Science Academy (INSA) sent a team consisting of two eminent Geologists to examine the matter and

make its recommendations. The team visited the University from 21st to 23rd September, 1989, and had prolonged discussions with Scientists. The team recommended that a scientific expedition consisting of seven scientists from the country should visit a few selected localities in the Himalayas under the leadership of Prof. Gupta at the earliest to resolve the dispute with regard to the authenticity of fossil occurrences and allegations of recycling.

The University has approached various bodies including INSA, UGC, CSIR and GSI to fund the expedition. The expedition is likely to materialise during the current summer.

[*Translation*]

#### **Central Land Commission**

6096. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Environment Advisory Committee constituted in 1983 had suggested to set up a Central Land Commission for the protection of ecology.

(b) if so, whether the aforesaid suggestions had been accepted by the Union Government; and

(c) if so, whether the aforesaid commission has been set up and details thereof?

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). 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.