

Discovery of Megalithic Burials in Tamil Nadu

6937. SHRIMATI BASAVA RAJESWARI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether 2000 years old megalithic burials have been discovered for the first time under the sea by a team of marine archaeologists off Poompuhar and Tarangambadi coast in Tamil Nadu; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (PROF. M.G.K. MENON): (a) During preliminary survey in March 1990 a megalithic burial site was located 400 metres off Tarangambadi coast in Tamil Nadu.

(b) Preliminary finding indicate that this measures 10 metres in length and 6.3 metres in width at a water depth of 7 metres. Similar objects probably dating back to 200 BC. to 200 A.D. are found above a beach rock which at present is submerged.

Allocation of Funds for Nagaland Central University

6938. SHRI SHIKIHO SEMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any funds have been allocated during the year 1990-91 for Nagaland Central University, Lumami;

(b) if so, the total amount allocated; and

(c) the time by when the construction work is likely to be started and when it is expected to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHIMANBHAI

MEHTA): (a) to (c). According to the information furnished by the University Grants Commission, the Commission has made a tentative provision of Rs. 2 crores for new Central Universities, including Nagaland University, in their Plan for 1990-91. The estimated requirement for the establishment of Nagaland University is Rs. 61.34 crores. In view of the overall constraints of resources, it has not been possible to undertake necessary measures for making the University operational.

New item Captioned "Timber Shortage to Continue"

6939. SHRI R.N. RAKESH:
SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA
GAVIT:

Will the MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the press report appearing in "THE HINDUSTAN TIMES" dated 4th April, 1990 under the heading "TIMBER SHORTAGE TO CONTINUE";

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for the shortage; and

(d) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) to (c). According to "The State of Forest Report, 1987" prepared by Forest Survey of India, the gap between demand and supply of timber is estimated to be about 15 million cum. The shortage is as a result of increase in demand of wood based industries, housing etc. coupled with reduced extraction of timber from natural forests.

(d) The new National Forest Policy, 1988 has stipulated as below and reduce the pressure on demand of timber:

1. Encourage efficient utilisation of forest produce and maximise substitution of wood.
2. Enhance forest cover and productivity of forests through the application of scientific and technical inputs.
3. Forest based industries should raise raw-material direct for meeting their requirements. They should have direct relationship between the factory and individuals who can grow the raw-materials by supporting the individuals with inputs including credit, constant technical advice and finally harvesting and transport services.
4. Farmers, particularly small and marginal farmers should be encouraged to grow on marginal degraded lands available with them wood species required for industries.

Pending Cases Before New Delhi Bench of C.A.T.

6940. SHRI KAMAL CHAUDHRY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of cases in the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) is on the increase every year;

(b) the number of cases pending in the Central Administrative Tribunal bench at New Delhi as on 31st December, 1989;

(c) the number of cases filed during the

last three years ending 31st December, 1989 in New Delhi Bench; and

(d) the measures taken by Government for speedy disposal of the cases?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The number of cases pending (excluding miscellaneous petitions) before the Principal Bench of CAT at New Delhi as on 31.12.89 is 6528.

(c) The number of cases filed during the last three years ending 31st December, 1989 in the Principal Bench in New Delhi is 8421.

(d) With a view to reduce the pendency of the cases, the Government have already decided to set up two additional benches in the Principal Bench of the CAT at New Delhi.

Research Vessel Sagar Kanya

6941. SHRI D. PANDIAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the causes of the fire accident that damaged the Research Vessel Sagar Kanya had been investigated; if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the speed of the Research ship stands reduced to half knots per hour after the damage and repair, its cruising expenses per day have escalated and its fuel consumption has also increased;

(c) if so, the reasons for cruising it to the Carribean Sea;

(d) the speed, cruising expenses per day and fuel consumption of the vessel at present after repairs; and

(e) the reasons as to why the vessel had