

other idols belonging to Gupta period have been found during excavations at Sarnath;

(b) whether Government propose to construct a memorial at that place in Sarnath;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

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) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The archaeological site under the protection of Central Government contains valuable relics, both exposed and unexposed. The construction of any modern memorial in the area would militate against archaeological norms and prescriptions, with particular reference to the avoidance of any act which is likely to cause damage or injury to the site and monument.

[English]

Clearance for Ramakal Mettu and Chakkulathu Mettu Road

3990. SHRI R. MUTHIAH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal for forest clearance for construction of road connecting Western parts of Madurai district with Kerala namely, Ramakal Mettu and Chakkulathu Mettu sent by Government of Tamil Nadu is pending clearance with the Ministry of Environment and Forests; and

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

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) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Tehri Dam Project

3991. DR. BENGALI SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Committee constituted by Government to review the River Valley Projects had recommended to revoke the proposal regarding construction of Tehri Dam;

(b) if so, the conclusion of the inquiry conducted by the Committee;

(c) whether the work on this project would be stopped; and

(d) the amount already incurred by Government so far on this project?

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 Tehri Dam Project has been examined by the standing Environmental Appraisal Committee for River Valley Projects in the Ministry of Environment and Forests. The recommendations of the Committee are under consideration.

(d) Out of an estimated cost of Rs. 3008 crores, a sum of about Rs. 448.25 crores has

been spent so far.

[English]

Kerala Forest Research Institute

3992. SHRIRAMESHCHEENITHALA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to bring the Kerala Forest Research Institute, Peechi within the purview of Union Government;

(b) whether Government have also submitted any memorandum in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and action taken thereon?

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). A proposal was received from Government of Kerala for upgradation of Kerala Forest Research Institute, Peechi into a Centre of Excellence for Tropical Forestry Research. Clarifications have been sought from the State Government about the proposal.

Eucalyptus Trees

3993. SHRIBALGOPAL MISHRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) from whom and when the suggestion regarding large scale plantation of Eucalyptus trees for afforestation was received; and

(b) the impact of Eucalyptus growth on environment?

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) Various species of Eucalyptus, native of Australia, were introduced in South India at the end of the 18th century by Tipu Sultan and later by the British in other parts of the country. Large-scale planting of Eucalyptus was started in the Third Five Year Plan period under the scheme of "Plantation of fast growing species" and other development schemes.

(b) Research conducted at the Forest Research Institute, Dehra Dun, has indicated that Eucalyptus does not have adverse effect on environment. Food and Agricultural Organisation has reported in 1985 that scientific investigation does not indicate that Eucalyptus is bad for environment.

[Translation]

Population below poverty line in U.P.

3994. SHRI RAJVEER SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of people under poverty line in U.P. as on 31st March, 1990; and

(b) the number of people proposed to be brought above the poverty line during 1990-91?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH): (a) The estimated total number of people under poverty line in Uttar Pradesh for the year 1987-88 is 422 lakhs. Estimates as on 31st March, 1990 are not available.

(b) While poverty alleviation is the abiding concern of planned development, State-