

(a) the amount spent towards repairs of Rajasthan Atomic Power Plant Unit-I, Kota during the last three years and causes for need of frequent repairs ;

(b) the average percentage of annual production during the above period ;

(c) the maximum period each year for which the Unit-I remained closed during the last three years ; and

(d) the annual average administrative and maintenance expenses, respectively, of Unit-I ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC, ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K.R. NARAYANAN): (a) The amount spent towards repairs of Rajasthan Atomic Power Plant Unit-I, Kota during the last three years is Rs. 100 lakhs. Due to cracks in the end shields frequent repairs became necessary.

(b) and (c) The average percentage of annual production during the last three years in terms of capacity factors has been 0.0%, 4.0% and 9.0% respectively.

(d) The average annual administrative and maintenance expenses attributable to RAPS Unit-I during the last three years was Rs. 140 lakhs and Rs. 20 lakhs respectively.

#### Afforestation in Karnataka

\*34. SHRI NARSING SURYAWANSHI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the bottlenecks in implementation of afforestation programmes in the country, particularly in Karnataka ;

(b) the details of steps taken by the Union Government to remove these bottlenecks ; and

(c) the steps taken by Government of Karnataka in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BHAJAN LAL) :

(a) The main bottlenecks are :

(1) Paucity of funds (2) Inadequate infrastructure (3) Lack of coordination between various Social Forestry Schemes (4) Legal and administrative constraints in motivating rural poor to take up tree planting (5) Lack of effective voluntary agencies and non-Government organisation and other decentralised structures for promoting peoples' involvement in the programme (6) Lack of promotional activity by Banks for Social Forestry activities.

The steps taken are as under :

(1) 25% of funds allotted for the National Rural Employment Programme and the Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme have been earmarked for social forestry.

(2) The States/UTs have been directed to create nodal agency/mechanism for coordinating the flow of funds and activities under different afforestation schemes and also to strengthen organisations at village, block and district levels.

(3) States have been advised to modify land tenure laws and forest laws, to expedite availability of wastelands and ensure that economic gains of tree planting accrue to rural poor.

(4) State/UTs have been advised to lease Government Wastelands to rural poor, forest-based industries, Forest Development Corporations and also to organise Tree Growers' Cooperative for attracting institutional finance.

(5) Voluntary agencies and non-government organisations are being given assistance for implementing projects related to afforestation and social forestry.

(6) NABARD has issued guidelines to Banks to promote Decentralised People's Nurseries and afforestation.

(c) For increasing People's involvement in the programme, the Karnataka Government have taken up massive programme of promoting decentralised people's nurseries and school nurseries.

#### Protection of Medicinal Herbs in Garhwal Himalayas

\*35. SHRI T. BASHEER : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it has come to the notice of Government that despite a ban, unscrupulous traders are felling wild-growing medicinal herbs from the Tungnath area of Garhwal Himalayas ;

(b) if so, whether this felling will lead to a considerable ecological damage ; and

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the steps being taken to protect such herbs ?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BHAJAN LAL) : (a) to (c) A Statement is given below.

#### Statement

It has come to notice that some species of medicinal herbs are being removed from their habitat in Tungnath area of Garhwal Himalayas which may result in ecological damage. The following steps have been taken to prevent this :

- (a) The Tungnath area is covered by the Kedarnath Wild Life Sanctuary. Accordingly, full protection under the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 for the flora and fauna of this area is available.
- (b) Some of the species are being artificially multiplied for later rehabilitation and propagation by the Botanical Survey of India (BSI) and the High Attitude Physiology Centre, Garhwal University,
- (c) Trade and Commerce in endangered plants are not permitted under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

(d) Stricter implementation of the ban by the State Government.

#### Foreign Exchange on VCR/VCP/CTV Projects

\*36. DR. CHINTA MOHAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether manufacture of VCR/VCP has been found to involve heavy expenses foreign exchange ;

(b) if so, whether manufacture of CTV is also taking away a lot of foreign exchange; and

(c) if so, the amount of foreign exchange spent during the last 3 years on VCR/VCP projects and import of C.T.V. Components ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The approximate amount of foreign exchange involved in regard to import of components for the assembly of VCRs/VCPs by the approved units during the Calendar Years 1983, 1984 and 1985 is estimated to be US \$ 8.4 Million.

The approximate amount of foreign exchange involved in regard to import of Colour Television components during the Calendar years 1983, 1984 and 1985 is estimated to be US \$ 115.5 Million.

#### Powerful Transmitter Found at a Shrine at Kartarpur

\*37. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI: SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWAJ: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that a powerful transmitter which had jammed the Punjab Police network and resulted in