

Landslides in Himalayas

*33. **SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY** : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that landslides are playing havoc in the Himalayas; and

(b) if so, the reasons identified therefor and the remedial steps taken or contemplated in this regard ?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Occurrence of landslides in the Himalayas is due to :

- (i) the geologically young and seismically active nature of the Himalayan mountain range;
- (ii) the high incidence of cloud bursts and flash floods; and
- (iii) accelerated deforestation, over grazing, haphazard road construction and other development works.

The remedial steps being taken are :

- (1) ban on felling of trees above 1000 meters;
- (2) extensive afforestation;
- (3) incorporating environmental control measures in development projects; and
- (4) promotion of research and development to devise measures to prevent and control environmental damage.

Purchase of Public Sector Units Bonds by Nationalised Banks

*34. **SHRI D.P. JADEJA** : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the nationalised banks go in for purchase of bonds issued by the various public sector concerns for public subscription;

(b) if so, whether this practice is in accordance with the guidelines issued by Government; and

(c) if not, whether any action is contemplated to curb this practice ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BRAHMA DUTT) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) No guidelines have been issued by Government in this matter.

(c) Does not arise.

Launching of ASLV

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

(a) whether Augmented Satellite Launching Vehicle (ASLV) is likely to be launched in March, 1987; and

(b) whether ASLV to be launched in March, 1987 is completely indigenously built ?

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. The launch of the first developmental flight of the Augmented Satellite Launch Vehicle (ASLV) is scheduled for March/April 1987 from Sriharikota, in the launch window 20th March to 5th April.

(b) ASLV has been designed and built indigenously. However, some space qualified electronic components and materials like high strength alloy steel for rocket motor casing, kevlar fibres, fasteners etc., have been procured from abroad.

RBI Directives Regarding Personal Guarantees

*38. **SHRI P. M. SAYEED** : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether some institutions and associations have raised objections against