

(b) whether the Government have issued any instructions to all the concerned authorities to provide jobs etc. to displaced persons; and

(c) if so, the number of persons provided Government jobs and the number of persons who are yet to be given suitable jobs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) It is the responsibility of the State Government of Himachal Pradesh to rehabilitate persons being displaced or whose rights are being extinguished due to setting up of the Great Himalayan National Park, District Kulu, Himachal Pradesh. Government of India, on request from the State Government, provides central assistance for this purpose.

(b) and (c). Provision of jobs, etc. to persons displaced as above is a matter within the purview of the State Government. Government of India, however, has requested the Government of Himachal Pradesh to consider giving job to one person from each displaced family.

#### **Return of Gold to Temples in Himachal Pradesh**

1561. SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any request from public representatives of Kulu that the gold of temples of rural areas of Kulu district which has been deposited in various banks and the Government treasury under the National Defence Gold Bond Scheme, 1980 should be returned; and

(b) if so, when this request was re-

ceived and the action taken in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Apart from a suggestion received from the Honourable M.P. himself, no other request has been received by the Government in this connection in the recent past.

(b) A reply was sent to the Honourable M.P. on 4.12.1990.

#### **Cultivation of Opium in Himachal Pradesh**

1562. SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether licences have been issued to the farmers for cultivation of opium in Himachal Pradesh during the current year; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b). As cultivation of opium is at present, not permitted in Himachal Pradesh, no licences for cultivation of opium have been issued to the farmers in Himachal Pradesh during the current year. Since we are carrying huge stocks of opium, the policy of the Government is to restrict grant of licences to the traditional poppy cultivators in the State of M.P., U.P. and Rajasthan and the licences are issued in accordance with the conditions for grant of licences laid down from year to year.