

ve threat to the environmental stability of the entire Indian sub-continent;

(b) whether it is also a fact that forest cover in the Himalayas has been reduced considerably;

(c) whether a major part of peninsular India depends crucially on the Himalayas for monsoon; and

(d) whether Government have formulated any plan to preserve the Himalayan eco-system and check deforestation of its slopes; if so, what are the details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) There is no conclusive evidence to show that the eco-destruction of the Himalayas poses a grave threat to the environmental stability of the entire Indian sub-continent.

(b) According to the 3rd and the latest assessment of the forest cover made by Forest Survey of India, Dehradun, based on the visual interpretation of satellite imageries pertaining to the period 1987—89, the actual, forest cover has not decreased in the Himalayas, except for Arunachal Pradesh in comparison to 2nd assessment of forest cover pertaining to the period 1985—87.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The Government have taken following steps to preserve Himalayan eco-system and check deforestation:

(i) G.B. Pant Institute of Himalayan Environment and Development has been established to evolve effective strategies for management of natural resources and substantial development.

(ii) An integrated Action Oriented Programme in the Himalayan Region has been launched.

(iii) Guidelines have been issued to State Governments from time to time for protection of forest. Some of these guidelines are as follows:

(a) To avoid clear felling of natural forests and where such fellings

are inevitable for restoration of crop or other silvicultural considerations, it should be restricted to areas not exceeding 10 hectares in the hills and 25 hectares in the plains.

(b) To consider banning of fellings in the hills above 1000 metres, at least for some years.

(c) To identify critical areas in the hills and mountains which require protection from felling of forests and need immediate vigorous afforestation.

(d) To set apart of the geographical areas as protected area like wildlife sanctuaries, national parks, biosphere reserves etc.

(e) A massive afforestation programme including Social Forestry and Agroforestry under 20 Point Programme in all States and UTs, has been launched. Upto the end of VIIth five year plan, an area to the tune of 17.09 million hectares has been brought under afforestation.

(f) Government of India have issued guidelines for peoples' participation in management and development of degraded forests and their active involvement in afforestation programme.

Notification issued under the Environment Protection Act

950. **SHRI YASHWANT SINHA:** Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether by a notification issued on January 16, 1991 under the Environment Protection Act, the industries along the Ganga were required to fulfill certain pollution control standards by 31st December, 1991;

(b) whether the Supreme Court had also directed these units to file affidavits on the measures taken by them;

(c) whether Government have since relaxed this deadline and given one more year's time to these industries;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the present position of the case pending in the Supreme Court in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) The notification covered all polluting units in the country including those along the Ganga.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) On the basis of discussions with the State Governments, the following steps against the polluting industries has been notified:

(i) The industries which have commenced production on or before 16th May, 1981 and has shown adequate proof of at-least commencement of physical work for establishment of facilities to meet the specified standards within a time-bound programme, to the satisfaction of the concerned State Pollution Control Board, shall comply with such standards latest by the 31st December, 1993.

(ii) The industries which have commenced production after the 16th day of May, 1981 but before the 31st December, 1991 and have shown adequate proof of atleast commencement of physical work for establishment of facilities to meet the specified standards within a time-bound programme, to the satisfaction of the concerned State Pollution Control Board, shall comply with such standards latest by the 31st day of December, 1992.

(e) The cases with respect to the tanneries and other industries except distilleries has been listed for March 31, 1992 and the cases in respect of distilleries have been listed for April 9, 1992.

Bodhghat Project in Madhya Pradesh

951. SHRI MOHINDER SINGH LATHER: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government have received a request from the Madhya Pradesh Government for reconsidering the decision on Bodhghat Project; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) The Bodhghat Hydel Project was granted environmental clearance in 1979 and again in 1985, clearance under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 was, however, not accorded due to non submission of data and plans, based on the study report received in February, 1992 the proposal is to be re-examined for forest clearance.

Power project of Karnataka for environment clearance

952. SHRI J. P. JAVALI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of power projects submitted by Karnataka Government are pending for environment and forestry clearance; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

Only two projects are pending clearance. These are:

(i) Captive Power Plant of Kudremukh from Ore Company.

(ii) Sarvathi Tail Race Hydro Electric Project.

Scheme to clean the Yamuna river

953. SHRI SHANTI TYAGI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to launch a scheme to clean the Yamuna river;