

pulsory Use in Packaging Commodities) Act, 1987;

(b) whether it is also a fact that hundreds of small scale manufacturers of plastic woven sacks have suffered heavily due to the above Act;

(c) whether Government are aware that because of the above Act, level of production of small scale industrial units, manufacturing plastic woven sacks have gone down to 25 per cent and a number of units have also closed down; and

(d) if so, what is the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) to (d) . Associations and units of Plastic woven sacks manufacturers etc. have been representing from time to time that the Reservation Orders issued by the Government in terms of the provisions of the Jute Packing Materials (Compulsory Use in Packing Commodities) Act, 1987 have affected their capacity utilization and economic viability. Government are of the view that the interests of the traditional jute packaging sector and the synthetic plastic units should be harmonised and both of them should co-exist by having a legitimate share of the packaging of various sectors of the economy, viz. foodgrains, sugar, cement and fertilizers. Keeping this objective in view the Reservation Orders, are reviewed from time to time.

Holding back of letters of credit by RBI

114. SHRI VITHALBHAI M. PATEL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Reserve Bank of India has held back Letters of Credit worth crores of rupees which is adversely affecting industries in Gujarat;

(b) whether it is also a fact that most of the Letters of Credit held back by Reserve Bank of India belong to public sector and semi-public sector industries;

(c) if so, what are the reasons for holding back Letters of Credits;

(d) whether it is also a fact that because of this action of the Reserve Bank of India, production would be hampered

and the cost price would also 'increase; and

(e) if so, what 'remedial steps Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DAL-BIR SINGH): (a) to (e) In the wake of foreign exchange crunch, Reserve Bank of India have imposed import restrictions which are applicable to public as well as private sector industries. In order to ensure that the production of essential items like petroleum, fertilizers, edible oils, etc., is not adversely affected, such items have been exempted from the operation of these restrictions. The Reserve Bank of India reported that a number of requests received from a large number of importers, including those from Gujarat, have been staggered in view of the difficult foreign exchange position.

Admission in Delhi University Colleges

115. SHRI SHANTI TYAGI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Delhi University Colleges have cut down on admission to under-graduate courses this year;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard and the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government propose to review the decision to avoid students agitation on the issue ?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) No. Sir. According to the information furnished by the University of Delhi, as against 66,609 students admitted to Under-graduate. courses last year, the intake capacity this year is 67,823.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Total area of reserve forests in India

116. SHRI R. T. GOPALAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total area of reserve forests in the country;

(b) what is the total area of reserve forests in Tamil Nadu; and

(c) what is the estimated number of wild animals 'in the reserve forests of Tamil Nadu; and

(d) whether there is any scheme in operation in Tamil Nadu for the protection of lions and tigers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Total area of reserve forests in the country is 4,06,119 sq. kms.

(b) Total area of reserve forests in Tamil Nadu is 22,319 sq. kms.

(c) According to the latest census figures, the estimated number of wild animals is 12,725. The census of wild animals is 'undertaken in Wildlife sanctuaries only.

(d) Lions are not found in the wild in Tamil Nadu. Central Assistance under the Scheme 'Project Tiger' is provided for development of Kalakad—Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve.

दिल्ली में पर्यावरण पार्क और अनुसंधान केंद्र और विश्व पर्यावरण सूचना केंद्र स्थापित किया जाना

117. श्री शंकर दयाल सिंह : क्या पर्यावरण और वन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) भारतीय पारिस्थितिकी एवं पर्यावरण संस्थान की दिल्ली में पर्यावरण पार्क, अनुसंधान केंद्र और विश्व पर्यावरण सूचना केंद्र स्थापित करने की कोई योजना है ; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो इस सम्बन्ध में व्यौरा क्या है ?

पर्यावरण और वन संचालक में राज्य मंत्री स्वतंत्र प्रभार (श्री कमल नाथ) :

(क) सरकार को इस सम्बन्ध में संस्थान से किसी तरह का कोई प्रस्ताव अथवा सूचना प्राप्त नहीं हुई है ।

(ख) प्रश्न नहीं उठता ।

उत्तर प्रदेश में एशियाई भाषा संस्थान की स्थापना

118. श्री शंकर दयाल सिंह : क्या मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या कुशीनगर, उत्तर प्रदेश में एशियाई भाषा संस्थान की स्थापना करने का कोई प्रस्ताव है ; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो इस सम्बन्ध में अब तक क्या कार्यवाही की गई है ?

मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्री (श्री अर्जुन सिंह) : (क) इस समय कुशीनगर (उत्तर प्रदेश) में एक एशियाई भाषा संस्थान गठित करने का कोई ठोस प्रस्ताव नहीं है । तथापि बड़ा स्नातकोत्तर कालेज, कुशीनगर (उ० प्र०) के प्रिंसिपल के साथ-साथ वहाँ के कुछ निवासियों ने ऐसा एक संस्थान गठित करने पर विचार करने के लिए मन्त्रालय से अनुरोध किया है ।

(ख) जिन व्यक्तियों ने जिन्होंने उपर्युक्त अनुरोध किया था, अपने अनुरोध के समर्थन में स्वेच्छा से पूर्ण व्यौरे प्रस्तुत करने के लिए इच्छा व्यक्त की थी जो अभी प्राप्त होते हैं ।

बिहार में पुरातत्व संबंधी खुदाई

119. श्री शंकर दयाल सिंह : मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) बिहार में चैप, बंशली, तथा विक्रमशिला नामक स्थानों पर पुरातत्व सम्बन्धी खुदाई का कितना कार्य हुआ है ;

(ख) इन उत्खननों के परिणाम स्वरूप अभी तक क्या तथ्य उभरकर सामने आये हैं ; और

(ग) 1991-92 के वर्ष के दौरान बिहार में किन-किन स्थानों पर पुरातत्व सम्बन्धी खुदाई किए जाने का प्रस्ताव है ?

मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्री (श्री अर्जुन सिंह) : (क) चैप में 1977-78 और 1988-89 के दौरान; बंशली में 1903, 1913-14, 1950, 1958-62, 1988-89 और 1990-91 में; तथा विक्रमशिला में 1962-63 और 1972-1981 में खुदाई-कार्य किया गया था ।

(ख) इन उत्खनन-कार्यों के परिणाम इस प्रकार हैं :-