

(b) Visual environment is an aesthetic concept.

(c) and (d) This is being kept in view while planning the urban environment & traffic operations.

#### **Pollution free Energy Generation**

1819. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose any steps for pollution free energy generation keeping in view the depletion of fossil fuels;

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

(c) whether some areas in the country have been identified as isolated land areas where growth of inhabitation may be restricted and which may be suitable for location of nuclear power plants; and

(d) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS, SPACE AND OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL):

(a) and (b) The choice of nuclear energy as a source for generating electricity is not only to meet the situation of dwindling fossil fuels but also on account of the fact that nuclear energy has been established to be one of the cleanest sources of power. In addition, considerable progress has been made in regard to harnessing and applying new and renewable sources of energy which are pollution free.

(c) and (d) For location of nuclear power plants, suitability of sites is assessed *inter alia* from a study of the site geology, general hydrology, water availability environmental, health & safety factors like demography, agriculture, live-stock data, meteorological factors, seismic conditions, transportation problems etc.

#### **Law for Protection and Conservation of Places of Historical Importance**

1820. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to enact law or issue an ordinance for the protection and conservation of the places of historical importance and those connected with country's heritage in the country; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSION AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, there is already an Act namely the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958 which provides for the preservation of ancient and historical monuments and archaeological sites and remains of national importance. Similar laws have also been enacted by the State Governments for the preservation of the monuments other than those declared to be of national importance.

#### **Setting up of Electronic Telephone Exchanges in Bihar**

1821. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state the number of electronic telephone exchanges proposed to be set up in the Seventh Five Year plan period in Bihar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS, SPACE AND OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.