

switch over process in the manufacture of colour TV etc. by the Hyderabad public sector Undertaking?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS (SHRI M. S. SANJEEVI RAO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Environmental Problems of Hill Areas

663. SHRI B. C. PATTANAYAK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the environmental problems of the hill areas;

(b) if so, what are the main problems; and

(c) what efforts have been made or proposed to be made by Government to overcome these problems?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, ELECTRONICS AND ENVIRONMENT AND OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA PRATAP NARAIN SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Denudation of forests; extensive land slides; excessive grazing and Jhumming cultivation; drying up of the natural springs which are the main source of drinking water; and general scarcity of energy particularly in remote localities etc.

(c) The Government is launching development programmes which are compatible with environmental conservation. The Eco-Development Board in the Department of Environment has been charged with the responsibility of identifying critical areas in the hilly regions for launching massive programmes of afforestation and soil conservation. Feasibility of establishing mini and micro-hydel schemes, to meet the local power requirements, is being examined. Em-

phasis on conservation and rational utilization rather than exploitation of the forest resources is being laid in conformity with the national goal of achieving 33 per cent forest cover; and creation of several Biosphere Reserves is under active consideration to preserve the environmental conditions in the hilly regions.

Demand_s of the Employees Association of Botanical Survey of India

664. SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Employees' Association of Botanical Survey of India had submitted any Charter of Demands in June, 1981 to the Department heads;

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

(c) what is the reaction of Government thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, ELECTRONICS AND ENVIRONMENT AND OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA PRATAP NARAIN SINGH): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The Charter contains issues relating to shortage of staff, amendment of recruitment rules, stagnation, allocation of pay scales etc. It also contains demand to augment the existing medical facilities, providing jobs to the retired employees, staff quarters, night duty allowance, liveries to employees, five year assessment promotions, abolition of confidential report system, grant of special pay and bonus, recreation and canteen facilities, etc.

(c) The Botanical Survey of India Employees Association is a recognised Association having periodical meetings with the Director, Botanical Survey of India. The Association is also a participant of the Joint Consultative Machinery Scheme. Through these mechanisms the issues regarding staff problems are periodically discus-