

several matters, the Court dispenses with the printing of appeal record and directs the hearing of appeals on Special Leave Paper Books, and in urgent matters it fixes a date, for an early hearing of the appeals.

(d) Seven Benches sit to dispose of miscellaneous matters on Mondays and on other days all the courts take up miscellaneous matters as well as regular matters. The number of Benches hearing regular matters has also been increased.

Rehabilitation of Malayalees repatriated from foreign countries

368. SHRI K. C. SEBASTIAN: Will the Minister of SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any scheme for rehabilitating Malayalees repatriated from foreign countries; and

(b) if not, what are the reasons therefor and whether Government propose to take any action in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION (SHRI V. P. SATHE): (a) and (b) the Department of Rehabilitation is concerned with relief and rehabilitation of repatriates from Sri Lanka, Burma, Uganda, Mozambique, Zaire and Vietnam and displaced persons from Pakistan and former East Pakistan (now Bangladesh) and also Tibetan refugees. By and large schemes are being implemented for this purpose irrespective of any categorisation of repatriates/refugees on linguistic or regional basis.

Silent Valley Project

369. SHRI K. C. SEBASTIAN:

SHRI S. KUMARAN:

Will the Minister of ENERGY AND IRRIGATION AND COAL be pleased

to refer to the Unstarred Question 7 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 28th January, 1980 and state:

(a) whether any discussions with the State Government of Kerala have been held with regard to the Silent Valley Project; if so, what is the outcome thereof; and

(b) when was the project initially cleared by the Planning Commission and whether any conditions were specified in clearing this project; if so, whether the Kerala Government fulfilled those conditions?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND IRRIGATION AND COAL (SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The Silent Valley Hydro-electric Project envisaging three units of 40 MW (3x40 MW) was originally sanctioned in February, 1973. Subsequently, the installed capacity of the Project was changed to two units of 60 MW (2x60 MW) and the State authorities submitted the revised estimates in October, 1977. Meanwhile, environmentalists and ecologists raised doubts regarding preservation of flora and fauna in the Silent Valley in the event of execution of this project. Accordingly, the Department of Science & Technology constituted a Task Force to examine the environmental problems relating to this Project, which recommended that the Silent Valley Project should be abandoned and the area should be declared a biosphere. However, if, for any reasons it is not possible to abandon the Project, appropriate safeguards may be adopted for protecting the environment.

This was further examined by the National Committee on Environmental Planning & Coordination in the Department of Science and Technology, which recommended certain safeguards for protecting the environment in the