

Opening of Qutub Minar for public

1796. PROF. M. M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to keep the Qutub Minar open to the public which is closed for the last several years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the visitors would be allowed to see the historical monuments?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (c) The Qutub Minar is open to the visitors. However, the visitors and tourists are not allowed to climb the staircase since 1981. A decision in principle has been taken to open the Qutub Minar upto the first floor. Adequate security and safety measures need to be ensured, and put in place before a final decision is taken. Necessary repairs and other works relating to security and safety of the Qutub Minar are in progress.

Plan for prevention of flash floods

1797. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR: Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a 22 crore rupees plan titled "Erosion control for prevention of flash floods in Guwahati City" is pending for final clearance;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have taken any measures for afforestation and other anti-erosion measures on the hills in and around the city of Guwahati under this plan; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI P. R. KYNDIAH): (a) and (b) The Government of Assam had proposed a project, namely, "Soil erosion control for managing of flash floods in Guwahati city" with an estimated cost of Rs. 21.25 crore in their priority

list of projects for the year 2004-2005 under Non Lapsable Central Pool of Resources (NLCPR). This project alongwith other priority projects of Assam was considered by the inter-ministerial Committee constituted for administration of NLCPR. The Committee did not recommend its retention. However, since it was a project on flash flood control, M/O DONER forwarded the same to the Ministry of Water Resources for consideration.

(c) and (d) The following schemes/projects relating to afforestation and anti-erosion measures have been taken up in and around Guwahati:

- (1) Protection of Guwahati town from Sukleswarghat to Bharalumukh from erosion of river Brahmaputra at a cost of Rs. 2.30 crore under NLCPR.
- (2) Protection of Guwahati town from Cachari Bazaar to D.C. Court from erosion of river Brahmaputra at a cost of Rs. 3.33 crore under NLCPR.
- (3) Kamrup (East) Forest Development Agency project for afforestation at a cost of Rs. 1.17 crore under National Afforestation Programme Scheme of the Ministry of Environment and Forests.

Autonomy to PSUs

†1798. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering to grant autonomy to the Public Sector Undertakings and Institutions; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith names of such undertakings/institutions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government have pledged to devolve full managerial and commercial autonomy to successful profit making Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) operating in a competitive environment. Various suggestions, including delegation of greater powers for investment, are being considered by the Government keeping in view the critical assessment of comparative strengths of the PSUs.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.