

note, CCI in its meeting held on 13.01.2011 directed that all pertinent issues may in the first instance be considered by Group of Ministers (GoM). Further it had directed that the GoM will consider all issues relating to reconciliation of environmental concerns emanating from various developmental activities including those related to infrastructure and mining, and finalize its recommendations within two months, including the following:

- (i) The efficacy and legality of existing forest clearance norms and procedures being followed.
- (ii) Environment clearance in respect of projects located in areas with high comprehensive Environmental Pollution Index; and
- (iii) The steps to be taken to ensure that better quality forests are regenerated in a time-bound manner after mining operations get over.

The first meeting of the GoM was held on 17.02.2011 and the GoM has not finalized its recommendations.

Akashvani Bhavan as 'Heritage Bhavan'

*151. MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government proposes to convert Akashvani Bhavan into a 'Heritage Bhavan'; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) As per Urban Development Department (Government of the National Capital Territory of Delhi) Gazette Notification dated 1st October, 2009 issued in exercise of powers conferred by Bye-laws 23.1 and 23.5 of the Delhi Building Bye-laws, 1983 read with sub-section (17) of Section 2 of the New Delhi Municipal Council Act, 1994, All India Radio Building and Campus at Sansad Marg, New Delhi has been notified as one of the 70 Buildings/ Precincts declared as heritage building under Grade-II Category.

98th Indian Science Congress

*152. SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government had organised the 98th Indian Science Congress recently; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the decisions arrived thereat, so far?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) The Indian Science Congress, since 1914, has been organized by the Indian

Science Congress Association (ISCA), which is an autonomous professional body. ISCA organized the 98th Session of the Indian Science Congress from 3rd to 7th of January, 2011 at Chennai. No governmental decision is arrived at in Indian Science Congress.

However, at the 98th Session of the Indian Science Congress, the focal theme was 'Quality Education and Excellence in Scientific Research in Indian Universities'. It was attended by about 8000 scientists, students and policy makers. It was also attended by 6 Nobel Laureates including Professor Amartya Sen and Professor V. Ramakrishnan. The Session was well-organized into plenary sessions on well-defined themes, special lectures, policy discussions, exhibitions, etc. The topics of discussions and presentations ranged from the frontiers of modern science to science for national development to policy issues affecting the Science and Technology sector of the country, for example-

- (i) chemistry of future;
- (ii) nano materials and nanotechnology
- (iii) recent advances in asthma research;
- (iv) environmental technology;
- (v) biodiversity;
- (vi) issues of climate change;
- (vii) drug development from discovery to market;
- (viii) science and challenges of energy security;
- (ix) strategic electronic sector;
- (x) agriculture, biotechnology, food and nutrition security;
- (xi) perspectives in human health in modern society;
- (xii) science policy-agenda for next five years;
- (xiii) challenges of maintaining quality education;
- (xiv) enhancing academia-industry interaction; etc.

Some of the recommendations made in the Science Congress were:

- Need to create an innovation eco-system so that innovation becomes a way of life in our knowledge institutions. India should become an Innovation Hot Spot.
- Development of climate resilient agriculture for food security of India should receive attention.

- Scientific knowledge should be used for sustainable development. For clean, ecofriendly and green technologies, there is a need of integrated management strategies involving all concerned sections of the society.
- Governments, regulators and operators should look for innovative ways of promoting community access to empower people in rural areas to join the rest of the virtual (cyber) world.
- Special attention is to be given to the growth and development of university system. Universities have to be more hospitable to creativity and genius, and less captive to bureaucracy and procedure. They should be more open to talent and to the challenge of established ideas.
- There is a need for scientists to step beyond their discipline and at least guide the social discourse on the ethical aspects related to use of scientific knowledge.
- The year 2012-13 will be centenary year of the Indian Science Congress. It should be designated as the 'Year of Science in India'. This "Year of Science in India" should unleash the energies of young scientists and inspire a new generation of Indians to enter the world of science, cross new horizons, explore new possibilities.
- The birthday of the legendary Indian mathematician, Srinivasa Ramanujan, which falls on December 22, should be declared as National Mathematics Day.

Setting up of hybrid power plants

*153. DR. K.P. RAMALINGAM: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has decided to hold global bidding this year to develop and set up power plants that use a mix of solar and fossil fuels;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government also proposes a demonstration of solar-thermal hybrid plants that would be allowed to use a mix of solar and natural gas or other fossil fuels; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (DR. FAROOQ ABDULLAH):
 (a) to (d) No final decision has been taken as yet on technology configurations of the hybrid/demonstration project using a mix of solar and fissile fuel and to hold global bidding for these projects.

Early warning system for prevention of frauds

*154. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the Minister of CORPORATE AFFAIRS be pleased to state: