

(c) The work on Kumarghat-Agartala project is in progress and the project is expected to be completed in about 4 years period depending upon availability of resources.

**Notifications for preventing constructions**

\*376 DR. K. MALAISAMY. Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state

(a) the immediate cause of action leading to issue of notifications preventing construction of structures by the State Governments/other agencies under the preservation of environment and prevention of environmental pollution;

(b) whether it is true that a number of State Governments have strongly objected this kind of move requesting to annul it; and .

(c) whether it is also true that the Notification in question has been stayed by the Court of Law and the said notification has no retrospective effect?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) The Central Government has not issued any Notification to prevent the construction of structures by the State Governments or other agencies. However, concerned about the continuing pollution of the rivers and water bodies by release of untreated sewage, and effluents from industrial estates, the Central Government had issued a Draft Notification on 27th October, 2003 to bring new construction projects and new industrial estates with prescribed threshold levels within the purview of the Environmental Impact Assessment Notification, 1994, requiring prior environmental clearance from Central Government. The said draft notification was finalised following the due procedure prescribed under the Environment (Protection) Rules, 1986 and final notification was issued on 7th July, 2004.

(b) Only a few States had objected to the issue of the draft notification and had requested for its withdrawal.

(c) Yes, Sir. An interim stay has been granted by the High Court of Madras on 26th July, 2004 and the matter is subjudice.