

down Tehri Hydro Project (U.P.) or to review project policy in view of rehabilitation of oustees and future Environmental Hazards;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government in this regard;

(c) the funds have been spent on this project so far;

(d) whether the Government have not taken into consideration the confidence of NGO's/ other agencies working for Environment before finalising the project; and

(e) the alternative arrangement made by the Government to solve the problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) to (e). Government had got examined, in detail, all aspects of Tehri Dam Hydro-electric Project by various experts committees, before the approval for the execution of the Tehri Hydroelectric Project Stage-I (1000 MW), ongoing commitments for Koteshwar Hydroelectric Project (400 MW) and essential works of Tehri Pump Storage Plant (1000 MW) was accorded in March, 1994. The construction activities at the Project site are continuing uninterruptedly and the coffer dam has been raised to a height of EL 660 metres. An expenditure of Rs. 1066 crores (Provisional) has been incurred on the Project upto June, 1996.

Shri Sunderlal Bahuguna went on fast in April, 1996 demanding review of the Tehri Dam Project. To facilitate a proper solution to the problem. Government has agreed to provide all facilities to examine the relevant scientific and technical reports and other information relating to the safety of the Tehri Dam by a group of four experts suggested by Shri Bahuguna. These experts have since been requested to examine the relevant reports and make available their recommendations for careful consideration by Government for ensuring that all necessary steps are taken to ensure the safety of the dam.

Government has also shown its willingness to have the ecological aspects, including its impact on the people of the area and resettlement of displaced persons examined by another group of experts including those nominated by Shri Bahuguna. Shri Bahuguna who broke his fast on 25th June, 1996, has since been requested to nominate 2-3 experts for the purpose.

National Hydro-Electric Power Corporation

*8. SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Hydro-Electric Power Corporation Limited had made any suggestion to

the Government to harness the Hydro-electric potential of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the assessed hydroelectric potential of the country at present and the actual power generation in this sector;

(d) whether the Government has formulated any long term/short term policy to harness the hydroelectric potential; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e). The total hydro power potential assessed by Central Electricity Authority is 84,044 MW (at 60% load factor) corresponding to an installed capacity of around 1,49,000 MW. Out of the potential, 12477.40 MW at 60% load factor has been developed. Thus, out of the total hydro power potential available in the country, 22.27% has been developed or is under development. The installed capacity of hydroelectric stations in the country at present is 20991.59 MW and the generation in 1995-96 was 72.51 billion units.

Amongst the measures taken to develop the hydroelectric potential are, setting up of hydroelectric corporations, including National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC), higher allocation of plan resources, including budgetary support and special incentives for hydroelectric projects which shall commence commercial generation on and after 1st January, 1997.

Rare Medicinal Plants

*9. SHRI R.B. RAI : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any agency/ arrangement to directly look after the preservation of rare medicinal plants found in the forests;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, whether the Government have realised the urgency for setting up of such responsible agencies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The State Forest and Wildlife Departments are directly responsible for the preservation of rare medicinal plants found in forests. All medicinal plants occurring in forest areas are covered by the provisions of the Indian Forests Act, 1927 and those

occurring in protected areas like national parks and sanctuaries, are also protected by the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Autonomy to Jammu and Kashmir

*10. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI :
SHRI JAGMOHAN :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether some militants of Jammu and Kashmir met the Prime Minister on 27th June, 1996;

(b) if so, the main topics discussed;

(c) whether the Defence Minister has announced 'Maximum Autonomy' to Jammu and Kashmir during his visit to that State;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Prime Minister has started discussion on the issue of autonomy with all sections of the State; and

(f) if so, when a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : (a) and (b). A group of former militant leaders representing the Forum for Permanent Resolution of J and K problem had met the Prime Minister on 26 June, 1996. They had earlier met the former Home Minister in March 1996 and had since been in dialogue with the Government of India to seek ways of restoring peace in the State of Jammu and Kashmir. For this purpose they have suggested the need for taking certain confidence building measures and other actions that could help in the restoration of peace and normalcy in the State.

(c) to (f). The Common Minimum Programme of the Government makes a specific reference that maximum autonomy would be given to the State. It is not possible to spell out any details in this regard at this stage. The Government's view is that details in this regard need to be worked out after discussions with an elected representative Government in the State.

Leprosy

*11. SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH :
KUMARI UMA BHARATI :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state.

(a) whether any vaccine has been developed first time in the country for the treatment of leprosy;

(b) whether the said vaccine has since been tested so far;

(c) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(d) the time by when commercial production of this vaccine is likely to be started to make the same available in market for sale?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) Yes, Sir,

(b) to (d). Two indigenously prepared vaccines, viz. ICRC and Mw are in evaluation stages. Limited clinical trials of a third vaccine, M. Habana have also been permitted. Trial evaluation will be done by Indian Council of Medical Research. Commercial production can commence and the vaccine can be marketed only after efficacy and safety of the vaccines are established.

[English]

On-going Power Projects

*12. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Advisory Committee under the Chairmanship of Planning Commission has recommended Finance Corporation to give priority to the on-going power projects for ensuring their completion;

(b) if so, other suggestions made by the Committee in this regard;

(c) the extent to which the power projects are working satisfactorily;

(d) the number of power projects at present functioning as per schedule; and

(e) the time by which the power shortage is likely to be improved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) No Advisory Committee has been set up under the Chairmanship of Planning Commission.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) and (d). The Power Projects functioning at present and their generation performance with reference to targets fixed for the year 1995-96 is given in the Statement at Annexure.

(e) Planning for power generation is a continuing exercise. For the Ninth Five Year Plan (1997-2002), as per the preliminary studies carried out by the Government, the capacity addition programme has been assessed as 56783 MW subject to the availability of essential inputs including funds. It has