

[*Translation*]

**Setting up of Pulmonary Institute in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh**

1616. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VERMA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Madhya Pradesh has submitted a proposal to the Union Government to set up a Pulmonary Institute in Bhopal;

(b) if so, whether any decision has been taken by the Union Government in this regard; and

(c) if so, the time by which it is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI-MATI D. K. THARADEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) to (c) In the wake of the Bhopal Gas Disaster, the Indian Council of Medical Research, New Delhi, formulated a proposal for establishment of a National Pulmonary Institute of Industrial Disaster on the suggestion of the Department of Science and Technology.

After a series of discussion at various levels, the Expert Committee constituted by the Ministry of Environment and Forest recommended that the proposed Institute be located at Delhi with three Regional Centres, one each at Ahmedabad, Pune and Bhopal.

[*English*]

**News item "Orissa SC/ST below poverty line"**

1617. SHRI BHAGEY GOBARDHAN: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government are aware of a study conducted by the National Council of Applied

Economic Research (NCAER) captioned "Orissa SC/ST below poverty line; Study" appearing in the Hindustan Times dated July 6, 1991;

(b) whether the implementation of poverty alleviation programmes have brought down the number of the poor living below poverty line from 48 per cent in 1977-78 to 37 per cent in 1984-85;

(c) whether the reported finding of a study by NCAER stating that 79 per cent of the Scheduled Tribes and 63 percent of the Scheduled Castes population of Orissa lives below the poverty line indicates that the desired objective has not been achieved in Orissa; and

(d) if so, further steps proposed to be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The study revealed that the households belonging to ST's and SC's are the poorest groups in rural Orissa.

(d) Through the Tribal Sub Plan strategy, the Special Component Plan, Special Centre Assistance and other schemes, development programmes for the benefit of ST/SCs are being implemented.

**Science Museum at Vijayawada**

1618. SHRI V. SOBHANAD-REESWARA RAO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a representation was made to establish science museum/centre in the big building available on Gandhi Hill at Vijayawada in Krishna District;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) whether a committee from National Science Centre from Calcutta has visited the place; and

(d) the time by which the Museum Centre is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Yes. A team of National Council of Science Museums visited Vijayawada. The National Council of Science Museums may consider setting up a Science Museum there if the State Government of Andhra Pradesh would provide a developed site and share the cost of construction as per the policy of the National Council of Science Museums.

#### **Working Women Hostels in Delhi**

1619. DR. A. K. PATEL:

SHRI ATAL BIHARI  
VAJPAYEE:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Working Women's Hostels functioning in the Union Territory of Delhi and their locations;

(b) the capacity of each hostel;

(c) whether any assessment has been made regarding the requirements of hostels for working women in Delhi; if so, details thereof;

(d) the annual expenditure being incurred by the Government on these hostels;

(e) whether more hostels are proposed to be opened in the Union Territory of Delhi in the near future; if so, the allocation of funds made therefor; and

(f) whether similar schemes are functioning in other metropolitan cities, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND THE DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): (a) to (f) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

#### *[Translation]*

#### **Implementation of Forest Conservation Schemes in Bihar**

1620. SHRI TEJ NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the extent to which deforestation is responsible for the occurrence of floods in the country; and

(b) the details of the forest conservation schemes being implemented in the flood affected districts of Bihar to check the fury of floods?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Trees slow down the intensity of rainfall, improve water percolation in the ground and minimise surface run-off; and, therefore, deforestation generally is responsible for occurrence of floods. There is no precise data available to indicate the extent to which deforestation as a single factor is responsible for occurrence of floods in the country.

(b) The Department of Soil Conservation under the Ministry of Agriculture have been implementing Centrally Sponsored Schemes of Integrated Watershed Management in the catchments of flood-prone rivers—Sone, Ajoy and Punpun. The catchment of these rivers fall in the dis-