

FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of that large parts of the hillocks and hills in many mountain ranges are being destroyed for town developments and industrial purposes, thus harming the ecological and environmental equilibrium in the country; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to prevent the destruction of the mountain ranges and the preservation of the environment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b). Conservation of mountain ranges from ecological point of view is receiving attention of the Government as reflected in the National Conservation Strategy, formulated in 1992. Measures taken to conserve the mountain ranges include:

Issuing of guidelines for carrying out different activities;

Issuing of notification under Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, for governing developmental activities in some critical areas such as Doon Valley and certain portion of Aravalli Range;

Enforcement of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980;

Afforestation of denuded hills; and

Assisting Gobind Ballabh Pant Institute of Himalayan Environment and Development for developing strategies, technologies and knowledge for

ecologically sound development of the Himalayan region.

Over-Bridge on Vijayawada Railway Line

2380. SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have sanctioned the construction of road over-bridge in place of level crossing at Ajit Singh Nagar near Vijayawada on Vijayawada-Aluru railway line;

(b) the estimated amount incurred thereon; and

(c) the time by which the work is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Expenditure upto the end of March '94 is Rs. 12.41 lakhs (approximately).

(c) Railway will take up physical construction work on bridge across Railway tracks after finalisation of pre-requisite formalities and commencement of work on the approaches by the State Government.

Neem Trees

2381. SHRI S M LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to formulate an incentive scheme to encourage the plantation of neem trees;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether majority of agricultural sci-