

of a Department of Mountain Development ;

(c) The Union Department of Environment and the state Departments consider integrated mountain development an area of highest national priority. Accordingly, the Himalayan Institute of Environment and Development with a network of Centres of Advanced Studies, is being set up as an autonomous organisation to concentrate only on environmental problem, of the Himalayan region. In addition Integrated, Action Oriented Eco-Research Programmes have been mounted to find solutions to the location-specific problems in the Himalayas, Western Ghats and other mountain areas in the country. Major emphasis of these programmes is on solving the local problems with public participation. In view of the above it is not considered feasible to create a separate Department for Mountain Development.

“Schemes to Pre-Empt Environmental Damage”

61. PROF. RAMKRISHNA MORE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have drawn schemes to pre-empt further environmental damage in the country ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BIR SEN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The scheme which have been formulated include the following ;

(i) An action plan for cleaning the polluted stretches of Ganga ;

(ii) River basinwise inventorisation of polluting sources and their control ;

(iii) Implementation of standards polluting industries within a given time frame ;

(iv) Demonstration projects for reclamation of degraded areas ;

(v) Raising of fodder and fuel-wood plantations in 5 million hectares of Westland every year under the aegis of the National Westland Development Board ;

(vi) Social Forestry programme.

(vii) protection of selected ecologically sensitive areas as Biosphere Reserves ; and

(viii) Catalytic assistance for promotion of environmental activities at the State level.

Kidnapping of Students by Bangladesh Rifles Jawans.

62. SHRI DHARAM PAL SINGH MALIK : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item appearing in the Hindustan Times dated 18 February, 1985 stating that two Indian school students were kidnapped from West Tripura's Narayanpur village, 500 yards inside the Indian territory by intruding Bangladesh Rifles Jawans ;

(b) if so, the details of the incident ; and

(c) the action taken by Government for their release ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI KHURSHED ALAM KHAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) On 15th February, 1985 at about 1530 hours, two Indian students,