

(d) After the enactment of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 the rate of deforestation due to diversion of forest land to non-forest use has registered a decline in all the States/UTs. However, no information is available with regard to Jammu and Kashmir where the Act is not applicable.

**"Cut in Allocation for Cleaning Ganga"**

2382. SHRIMATI KISHORI SINHA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the allocation for the cleaning Ganga has been drastically cut as reported in the Times of India dated 16 July, 1985;

(b) if so, reasons thereof;

(c) the impact of this cut on the scheme; and

(d) whether the gap in resources would be covered by international aid to any significant extent ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI VIR SEN) : (a) As against the initial estimated cost of Rs. 250 crores for implementing the first phase of the Ganga Action Plan, the Planning Commission has provided an outlay of Rs. 80 crores during the 7th Plan period.

(b) Overly constraint of resources.

(c) It is hoped that the project will not suffer on account of financial constraints.

(d) Offers will be examined and decisions will be taken on merits of each offer.

**Extending Pension Benefits to Pensioners Absorbed in Public Undertakings**

2383. SHRIMATI PATEL RAMABEN RAMJIBHAI MAVANI :  
SHRI KALI PRASAD PANDEY :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Ministry of Finance vide O.M.No.F. 1(3)-EV/83 dated 22

October, 1983 extended the benefit of recalculation of pension to all pensioners who retired prior to 1st April, 1979 but have denied the benefit to pensioners who on absorption in the Public Sector Undertakings accepted the option given to them to get their pension for pensionable service rendered in Central Government commuted in full; and

(b) if so, whether Government will consider extending the benefit to pensioners absorbed in public undertakings also ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSION AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO) : (a) and (b). The benefit of Finance Ministry's Office Memorandum No. F. 1 (3)-EV/83, dated the 22nd October, 1983 was extended to all pensioners. However, those who had got their full pension commuted on permanent absorption in Central Public Sector Undertakings/Autonomous Bodies are not eligible for this benefit, as they are no longer pensioners.

**Improvement of Dimapur Airstrip**

2384. SHRI CHINGWANG KONYAK : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to improve the present Dimapur airstrip for Boeing landing during seventh five year plan; and

(b) if so, when the works will be taken up ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSION AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Dimapur airfield is at present under the administrative control of Indian Air Force. It has been decided to take over this airfield from the Indian Air Force. The development of this airfield has been included in the Seventh Plan proposals of

the Civil Aviation Department. The development works are proposed to be taken up on completion of transfer formalities.

**Development of Rameshwaram into a Tourist Centre**

2385. SHRI R. ANNANAMBI : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government of Tamil Nadu submitted to the Central Government six years ago a proposal for development of Rameshwaram into a World class tourist Centre; and

(b) if so, the decision taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSION AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO) : (a) and (b). In 1980 the Government of Tamil Nadu had submitted a proposal at an estimated cost of Rs. 28 crores suggesting that financial assistance may be sought from the World Bank for development of Rameshwaram. The Ministry of Finance to whom the matter was referred expressed the view that since no significant expenditure in foreign exchange was involved in the project, it may not be beneficial to approach the World Bank for assistance.

The Central Department of Tourism however agreed in principle to provide financial assistance for the construction of a Reception Centre and a dharamshala at Rameshwaram. The State Government has intimated that they are identifying suitable land for these two projects.

**Setting up a National Science and Technology Information Network**

2386. PROF. RAMKRISHNA MORE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to set up a National Science and Technology

(b) If so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, SPACE AND ELECTRONICS (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL) : (a) Yes Sir. The programme of National Information System for Science and Technology (NISSAT) was initiated in 1977.

(b) Initially, four sectoral information centres on machine tools, leather, food technology and drugs and pharmaceuticals, and a data-centre on crystallography were set up. Modern technologies of on-line connection with remote databases and computer based selective dissemination of information were demonstrated; several short-term courses, seminars and exhibitions were organised. During the Seventh Five Year Plan, it is proposed to expand the activities and develop the network.

**Increase in Lump-Sum Payment on Account of Commuted Pension**

2387. DR. VENKATESH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to increase the rate of lump-sum payment on account of the commutation of pension by the retiring Government employees from the existing rate of Rs. 125/- per rupee of pension;

(b) if not, whether the existing rate of commutation which was fixed decades ago should now be revised keeping in view the rate of inflation; and

(c) further action proposed to ameliorate the economic conditions of the pensioners or retiring Government employees ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSION AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) A proposal to review the existing