

(b) whether one of the reasons is less rainfall ;

(c) if so, whether the downward trend of rainfall is on account of natural reasons or man-made cause of deforestation of land ; and

(d) the preventive measures proposed to be taken to prevent the mass scale felling of trees ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI) : (a) While lowering of water table has been observed, there is no lowering of watershed areas in the country ;

(b) and (c). There is no observed downward trend in rainfall. The reasons for variation in rainfall are not known.

(d) Measures proposed for preventing mass scale felling of trees include :

—Close scrutiny of projects involving diversion of forest land before approval is granted ;

—Conservation of biologically rich areas by protecting them as National Parks, Sanctuaries and Biosphere Reserves ;

—Emphasis on alternative energy sources to save fuel wood ;

—Massive social forestry programme to meet fuel and fodder requirements ;

—Control on shifting cultivation ; and

—Afforestation of 5 million ha/yr. of wasteland.

**Development of means and Instruments to Tap Seawaves for Generation of Power**

2354. SHRIMATI MADHUREE SINGH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the tapping of seawaves as a source for generating power by the USSR and Japan and many other countries ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) whether the development of the means and instruments to tap seawaves for generation of power have been undertaken in our country ; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K.R. NARAYANAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) According to the available information, several countries, including USSR and Japan, have made considerable efforts in generating power by wave action in their off-shore and in-shore areas on a trial basis. Norway has developed a proto-type wave power generating plant using techniques of Oscillating Water Column (OWC).

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Department of Ocean Development has sponsored a project at the Indian Institute of Technology, Madras, for power generation by waves. The Institute has completed laboratory experiments for power generation by waves. A sea trial experiment will be undertaken with a view to developing a proto-type wave power plant. The Calcutta Port Trust is also having a project for harnessing wave energy at the Sagar island in West Bengal.

**Licences to Andhra Pradesh Electronics Development Corporation**

2355. SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Andhra Pradesh Electronics Development Corporation has applied for a licence to establish a unit for manufacture of colour picture tubes ;

(b) whether licence and other sanctions have already been granted to three other parties while keeping pending APEDC proposal ;

(c) if so, the reasons for the delay ; and

(d) the likely date by which APEDC will be issued licence and other necessary approvals to go ahead with the project ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K.R. NARAYANAN) : (a) Andhra Pradesh Electronics Development Corporation (APEDC) holds a letter of intent for the manufacture of Colour Picture Tubes. Subsequently in February, 1986 they submitted a composite proposal for enhancement of their capacity and approval of foreign collaboration (F.C.).

(b) Licences/approvals have been given to three other parties.

(c) and (d). There has been no delay on the part of Government in processing the application. The time taken has been on account of the various issues involved. A decision would be taken as soon as these issues are resolved.

[Translation]

**Projects of Maharashtra Pending Clearance from Forest Department**

2356. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the projects (irrigation and other development projects) of Vidarbha region of Maharashtra which are held up for want of clearance from Department of Forests ;

(b) the number of people of Maharashtra likely to be benefited and probable increase in agricultural production by completion of these projects ;

(c) the reasons for which such clearance was not given and by which time it will be accorded ; and

(d) the efforts made by his Ministry which may enable early completion of these pending irrigation projects and help in development of forests ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS. (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI) : (a) Only one case, namely, diversion of forest lands for laying of 66 KV Allapalli-Etapalli Transmission line in Chaudrapur district is pending with the Ministry of Environment & Forests. However, another 11 cases which are given in the Statement below are being treated as closed on account of non-submission of essential information by the State Government.

(b) These figures have not been indicated in the proposals received from the State Government except in one of the closed cases, namely Wan Irrigation Project, in which agricultural production is estimated to increase by 52887 metric tonnes per year.

(c) Final decision could not be taken due to the non furnishing of essential information, by the State Government.

(d) The Ministry of Environment and Forests have issued repeated and detailed guidelines in regard to adequate formulation of proposals for diversion of forest lands.