

(vi) About 6 Environmental Scientists.

(vii) 6 Officials—Chief Secretary of the State, Secretary in-charge of Environment as Convenor, and 4 other high level officials dealing with subjects related to environment such as Industries, Irrigation, Power, Agriculture, Labour etc.

(viii) 2 Officials of the Ministry of Environment and Forests—to be designated by the Government of India.

#### French loan

5197. SHRI K. RAMACHANDRA REDDY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether France has recently agreed to grant a loan to India;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the interest to be paid and conditions of repayment; and

(c) the conditions imposed, if any, for the use of this loan amount in a particular way ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BRAHMA DUTT) : (a) and (b). The last agreement signed with France was in May, 1986 for a loan of upto FF 1200 million for H.B.J. pipeline, the loan is repayable in 28 years including grace period of 3 years and carries interest at 6.14 per cent per annum.

(c) The loan is available for financing goods and services of French origin for the H.B.J. pipeline project.

#### Levy of consignment tax

5198. DR. DATTA SAMANT : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Maharashtra Government have urged the Union Government to take early steps to introduce a bill in the Parliament for enabling levy of the consignment tax;

(b) the number of meetings convened regarding this matter by Finance Minister and the National Development Council in this regard; and

(c) the outcome thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Two meetings of all Chief Ministers and one meeting of a Group of Chief Ministers were convened by Finance Minister in this regard. In the meeting of the National Development Council held on 8th and 9th November, 1985 to consider the draft of the Seventh Five Year Plan, some of the Chief Ministers, including the Chief Minister of Maharashtra, pleaded for expediting legislation for the introduction of consignment tax. On some of the important issues involved, the views of the States have been received and are being examined.

#### Research Centres under UNDP and MAEP Programme

5199. SHRI AJAY MUSHRAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether under the United Nations Development Programme and the Micro Processor Application Engineering Programme five Research Centres have been established including one at Jabalpur for developing the technology of microprocessor and soft-wares in agriculture;

(b) if so, the allocation of funds during Seventh Plan (year-wise) and list of equipments supplied and proposed to be supplied;

(c) whether the functioning of the said project in Jabalpur centre is not upto the desired level due to the interference of Jawaharlal Nehru Krishi Vishwa Vidyalaya administration; and