

(b) whether the Supreme Court has issued general stay orders to the collectors and District Officers of Thana District in Maharashtra not to secure or destroy crop in the forest land encroached by adivasis; and

(c) the guidelines issued by Government in case of encroachment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI): (a) and (b). The information is being collected from the State/UT Governments and will be placed on the Table of the House.

(c) As there are clear legal provisions to deal with encroachments, guidelines are not required.

Closure of Taj to Visitors Once a Week

3635. DR. B. L. SHAILESH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether during his recent visit to the Taj Mahal and Agra Fort, he indicated that Government might keep historic monuments at Agra, including Taj Mahal, closed to visitors for one day in a week to carry out essential maintenance work;

(b) if so, whether the day for closure has been determined;

(c) if not, whether 'Friday' is being considered as the appropriate day for closure in view of this being the prayer day for the Muslims; and

(d) what other improvement-environmental, anti-pollution upkeep and maintenance of these historical monuments - he proposed to make?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L.P. SHAHI): (a) It has been suggested that the Taj Mahal Agra should be closed to public once in a week.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) A comprehensive Action Plan for the whole of Taj Mahal, apart from a time bound major programme of renovation, has been suggested.

Average Height of Indians

3636. SHRI G. BHOOPATHY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the average height of the Indians is either stand-still or it is decreasing by 1 cm. (Centimetre) during the recent time;

(b) whether a survey disclosed that the average height of the foreigners in the same period has increased by 1 Centimetre; and

(c) if so, what steps are being taken by Government to prevent decrease in the average height of the Indians?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) No. The data collected by National Nutrition Monitoring Bureau in 9 States in India between 1974 and 1982 indicates that there is no decrease in height in adults (25-30 years). In fact, there is a slight increase in the height.

(b) Studies carried out in USA have indicated that there are secular trend among adults in height that there is improvement in height in succeeding generation.

(c) Does not arise.

Population in Slum Areas

3637. DR. T. KALPANA DEVI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether population in slums is increasing in the recent years; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken to achieve the desired birth rate in slum areas by-2000 A.D.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) Yes.