

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARA-MANGALAM): (a) to (d) The additional environmental measures recommended by Hanumantha Rao Committee, *inter alia*, include the treatment of entire degraded catchment area of Tehri HE Project of "very high" and "high" erodability classification, instead of only direct draining areas, undertaking of additional studies on Flora and Fauna, effect on human health due to reservoir; adoption of measures to control dust pollution, possible impact on quality of water, downstream of reservoir etc. After the recommendations of Hanumantha Rao Committee having been considered by an Inter-Ministerial Group were reviewed by the Committee of Secretaries which suggested for implementation of these recommendations subject to approval of the Government.

The additional financial implications involved in the implementation of the recommendations relating to environmental measures as recommended by Inter-Ministerial Committee is estimated to be Rs. 63 crores as against Rs. 120 crores recommended by the Hanumantha Rao Committee. The additional expenditure is proposed to be met out of the project cost.

As per the present indication, the Tehri Dam and HE Project Stage I (1000 MW) is schedule to be commissioned by March, 2002.

[Translation]

Clearance to Irrigation Projects

3671. SHRI BALI RAM KASHYAP:

SHRI KALLAPPA AWADE:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of irrigation projects in the country and especially in Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra pending for environment clearance; and

(b) the State-wise and project-wise details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) Only three irrigation projects are pending for environmental clearance. No irrigation project from Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra is pending for environmental clearance.

(b) A statement is attached.

Statement

S.No.	Name of the project	Pending since	Reason for pendency
1	2	3	4
Assam			
1.	Champamati Irrigation Project, Deptt. of Irrigation Govt. of Assam.	May 1998	Under Process

1	2	3	4
Orissa			
2.	Lower Suktel Irrigation Project. Govt. of Orissa.	April 1998	Under Proces
3.	Lower Indra Irrigation Project. Govt. of Orissa.	April 1998	Under Process

[English]

Popularisation of Agricultural Biotechnology

3672. SHRI MUKUL WASNIK: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have undertaken any programmes to create awareness of the basic concepts, potentials and recent developments in agricultural biotechnology among the students and general public;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have any plans to publish appropriate documents relating to agricultural biotechnology in all the official and regional languages;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, Many programmes are under implementation to create awareness about biotechnology and in particular about agricultural biotechnology specially by the Department of Biotechnology and the Indian Council of Agricultural Research. A scheme is under implementation on organisation of popular lectures by experts to create awareness of the basic concepts, potentials and recent developments in biotechnology amongst students of schools/colleges/universities and general public. The lectures cover various aspects of agricultural biotechnology, also in local/regional language. Eleven popular books on different topics of biotechnology have been published. Several colour posters illustrating biotechnological processes have been brought out for popularising biotechnology among young students. Popular articles in biotechnology are being published in science magazines such as 'Science Reporter' and 'Vigyan Pragati'. The potential of biotechnology and its application are also being popularised through films and exhibitions on topics such as biofertilizers, biopesticides and plant tissue culture. During National Science Day celebrations, activities like open house, exhibitions, debates and essay writing by students are organised.

(c) to (e) Three popular books which were initially published in English have been translated in Hindi. During demonstrations on biofertilizers and biocontrol agents among farmers, kisan melas, exhibitions and training programmes have been organised. Information on the products, technologies etc. is provided through hoardings and brochures in the