

encroached defence lands;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the immediate steps being taken to remove the unauthorised constructions on defence lands in Kanpur?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. RAJA RAMANNA): (a) No Notice has been issued for total demolition of buildings in the recent past. However, notices under the Cantonment Act, 1924 are always issued if unauthorised constructions are not got regularised or not removed by the defaulters.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Action under the Cantonments Act, 1924 and the Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Act, 1971 is taken immediately as soon as unauthorised construction or encroachment is noticed.

Power Projects In Karnataka

7672. SHRI SRIKANTHA DATTA NARASIMHARAJA WADIYAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of power projects in Karnataka are pending for forest clearance since long;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the date since when those power projects have been pending; and

(d) the steps taken to clear those projects soon?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NILAMANI ROURAY): (a) and (b). Only one proposal of Power Project, namely "Construction of

Hydro Electric Project by Boruka Power Corporation Limited, in Shivapura village" is pending with Central Government for clearance under Forest (Conservation) Act 1980.

(c) and (d). The proposal was first received from Karnataka State Government on 9.11.1989. Since the proposal was incomplete, the State Government was requested to furnish the wanting essential details. The State Government has forwarded the details on 19.4.90. The land involved is C&D class land in the possession of Forest Department. Since, area involved is not recorded as forest land, clearance under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 is not necessary.

Proposal to Change the Examination System

7673. SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to change the examination system in some courses, particularly in engineering courses;

(b) if so, the details of suggestions received from different universities in this regard; and

(c) the details of the changes which are under consideration of Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA): (a) to (c). According to the information furnished by the University Grants Commission, the Commission has been advising universities for many years for introducing examination reforms. The measures suggested by the Commission mainly include continuous internal evaluation, development of question banks, introduction of

grade and semester systems. According to the information furnished by all India Council of Technical Education, the Council has also laid down norms for conduct of examinations for engineering courses.

Examination reforms have been implemented by a number of universities, institutions deemed to be universities and agricultural/technological universities. According to the information furnished by University Grants Commission, 93 universities have introduced continuous internal evaluation, 31 universities have developed question banks, 57 universities have introduced grading system and 83 universities have introduced semester system.

Cleansing of Rupnarayan River

7674. SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISHRA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state the steps being taken to make Rupnarayan river, a tributary of river Ganga, Pollution-free?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NILAMANI ROUSTRAY): Pollution abatement measures for Rupnarayan River have not been included in the Ganga Action Plan.

'Forests of Gujarat'

7675. SHRI GOVINDBHAI K. SHEKHDA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of total forest area in Gujarat State;

(b) whether the forest area in the State has drastically decreased in the last three years;

(c) if so, reasons therefor; and

(d) the measures proposed to be taken

up in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NILAMANI ROUSTRAY): (a) The recorded forest area in Gujarat is 18,777 Sq. Kms. which is 9.6% of the total geographical area of the State.

(b) to (d). The real forest cover in Gujarat has decreased by 70 Sq. Kms. between 1981-83 and 1985-87 which is not a drastic decrease.

Measures taken/proposed to be taken to conserve/protect forests are given below:—

1. The National Forest Policy, 1988, lays more emphasis on conservation of forests. There are specific provisions for protection of forests from grazing, fires and encroachment.
2. Forest (Conservation) Act was enacted in 1980 to check diversion of forest land for non-forest purposes. The act has been made more stringent by an amendment of 1988.
3. A Centrally Sponsored Scheme is under implementation to help the State to develop infrastructure for protection of forests.
4. Alternative sources of energy are encouraged to replace fuelwood in domestic and commercial sectors.
5. Wood is substituted by alternative materials in packaging, railway sleepers, building construction, furniture etc.
6. Import policy for timber has been liberalised.