

other idols belonging to Gupta period have been found during excavations at Sarnath;

(b) whether Government propose to construct a memorial at that place in Sarnath;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (PROF. M.G.K. MENON): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The archaeological site under the protection of Central Government contains valuable relics, both exposed and unexposed. The construction of any modern memorial in the area would militate against archaeological norms and prescriptions, with particular reference to the avoidance of any act which is likely to cause damage or injury to the site and monument.

[English]

Clearance for Ramakal Mettu and Chakkulathu Mettu Road

3990. SHRI R. MUTHIAH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal for forest clearance for construction of road connecting Western parts of Madurai district with Kerala namely, Ramakal Mettu and Chakkulathu Mettu sent by Government of Tamil Nadu is pending clearance with the Ministry of Environment and Forests; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and reasons for the delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Tehri Dam Project

3991. DR. BENGALI SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Committee constituted by Government to review the River Valley Projects had recommended to revoke the proposal regarding construction of Tehri Dam;

(b) if so, the conclusion of the inquiry conducted by the Committee;

(c) whether the work on this project would be stopped; and

(d) the amount already incurred by Government so far on this project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) to (c). The Tehri Dam Project has been examined by the standing Environmental Appraisal Committee for River Valley Projects in the Ministry of Environment and Forests. The recommendations of the Committee are under consideration.

(d) Out of an estimated cost of Rs. 3008 crores, a sum of about Rs. 448.25 crores has