

(ii) Cement Plants:

1. CCI—Yerra-guntla (AP)
2. CCI—Adilabad (AP)
3. CCI—Bokajan (Assam)
4. CCI—Charkhi-Dadri (Haryana)
5. CCI—Rajban (H.P)
6. CCI—Kurkunttee (Karnataka)
7. CCI—Mandhar (MP)
8. CCI—Akaltara (MP)
9. CCI—Mayagaon (MP)
10. IDC of Orissa (Orissa)
(Hira Cement)
11. TNSCC—Alangalam (TN)
12. TNSCC—Ariyalur (TN)
13. UPSCC—Churk (UP)
14. UPSCC—Dalla (UP)
15. UPSCC—Chunar (UP)
16. UPSCC—K.C.C. (UP)

(iii) Integrated Iron & Steel Plants:—

1. Bokaro Steel Plant

2. Rourkela Steel Plant

3. Bhilai Steel Plant

4. Durgapur Steel Plant

*[English]***Concentration on R&D**

1009. SHRI ANBARASU ERA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state the steps being contemplated to concentrate on Defence Research and Development requirements of the country?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH): Strengthening of the Defence R&D infrastructure and competence is a continuous process. Increasing financial allocations have been made over the last plan and in this year also for Defence R&D. Number of ab-initio development projects have been undertaken for state-of-the art defence weapons systems, platforms, sensors and equipments. R&D work is also in progress in number of emerging/frontier defence technologies. The scientists are being trained as an ongoing activity, in emerging sophisticated technologies in India and abroad. Government is following a dynamic personnel policy for career development and motivation of the R&D personnel. Further, the major R&D programmes are being executed by making optimal use of the national Science and Technology infrastructure available in academic and research institutions, both in public and private sector.

Conservation of Forests in Himalayan Region

1010. SHRI NANDU THAPA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) what steps Government have taken

to reduce pressure on the Natural forest, specially in the Himalayan Regions and provide alternative to forest based fuel and fodder to the people in these regions in order to make the conservation of forests a practical reality;

(b) whether Government propose to modify the forest policy so as not to treat the natural forest as a source of revenue to Government;

(c) if so, the lines on which the policy is to be modified; and

(d) the position concerning the defence establishments and forest felling in the Himalayan sector; what steps are being taken in this respect?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NILAMANI ROUSTRAY): (a) Steps taken by Government to reduce pressure on natural forests specially in Himalayan Region include:

1. Guidelines have been issued to State Governments as under:—

- (i) To avoid felling of natural forests and where such fellings are inevitable for restoration of crop or other silvicultural considerations, it should be restricted to areas not exceeding 10 hectares in the hills and 25 hectares in the plains.
- (ii) To consider banning of felling in the hills above 1000 meters, atleast for some years.
- (iii) To identify critical areas in the hills and mountains which require protection from felling of forests and need immediate, vigorous afforestation.

2. State Governments have been advised to take following measures:—

- (i) Popularise alternative sources of energy and fuel wood saving devices like establishment of biogas plants and distribution of improved chullas;
- (ii) Establishment of improved crematoria etc.
- (iii) Encouraging stall-feeding and scientific animal husbandry.
- (iv) Controlling and regulation of grazing.
- (v) people's participation in protection of forest areas, their regeneration and re-afforestation by providing incentives like sharing of forest produce etc.

(b) and (c). National Forest Policy, 1988 lays down that the principal aim of Forest Policy must be to ensure environmental stability and maintenance of ecological balance including atmospheric equilibrium which are vital for sustenance of all life forms human, animal and plant. The derivation of direct economic benefit must be subordinated to this principal aim.

(d) Defence establishments are in Himalayas on strategic considerations. Some of these are in the forest areas. Careful scrutiny is exercised by Forest Department before allowing any such establishment to be set up. Cases of felling of trees by defence establishments are taken up with local defence officers as and when these are brought to the notice of the forest department.