

the process of finalisation. It is, therefore, premature to spell out any modification in the strategy for industrial or any other major aspect of Planning.

#### **Damage to Fertile Land by Effluents from Tanneries in Tamil Nadu**

2108. DR. K. KALIMUTHU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the serious damage caused to fertile lands and crops by the effluents from tanneries in Tamil Nadu, specially in the North Arcot district of the State; and

(b) if so, the details of the remedial measures taken in this regard?

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) Yes, Sir.

(b) The remedial action include the following:

- (i) Tannery units have been directed by the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board to treat their effluents to prescribed standards.
- (ii) Tannery units in Tamil Nadu situated in clusters have been asked to put up Common Effluent Treatment Plants (CETP).
- (iii) The Central Government has given a grant of Rs. 25 lakhs to the Tamil Nadu Leather Corporation for installation of a CETP at Vaniyambadi. Works on this are in progress.

- (iv) Schemes for setting up Common Effluent Treatment Plants specially for those in the North Arcot District have been formulated by the Tamil Nadu Leather Corporation.

[*Translation*]

#### **Industries in Hill Areas**

2109. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission has recommended for setting up of certain specific type of industries in hill areas for the balanced industrial economic development of the hill regions;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to remove economic-imbalance in the hill areas during the Eighth Five Year Plan?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH): (a) to (c). The industries which reduce weight of the local materials, have low volume, light weight, have high value, and have long shelf life are generally considered suitable for hill areas. The industries which require pollution-free atmosphere, cool climate are also suitable. The examples of this are electronic goods, watch assembling units, optical glass, etc. Small-scale cottage industries like handlooms and carpet-making are also suitable. Tourism and trekking with due regard to judicious use of non-renewable local scarce resources are also considered appropriate. However, in all of these, care for preservation, development and restoration of ecology is considered important. Socio-economic and industrial development in the hills have to take place in harmony and to mutual advantage of human beings and ecological system. Details in this regard in the Eighth Plan