

of dangerous/poisonous chemicals and the establishment and operation of such industries near high density areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH):

(a) As per information made available by the State Governments and Union Territories Administrations, no such trend is discernible in respect of major accidents due to hazardous chemicals.

(b) A set of Rules entitled "Manufacture, Storage and Import of Hazardous Chemicals Rules, 1989 (MSIHC) has been notified under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 vide S.O.966 (E) dated 27th November, 1989. Part-1, Schedule-1 of these rules lays down the criteria for identifying chemicals which are hazardous. Schedule-2 of the Rules, as amended vide S.O. 2882 dated 3rd, October, 1994, lists the dangerous chemicals used and produced in bulk. These are:

1. Acrylonitrile
2. Ammonia
3. Ammonium nitrate
4. Ammonium nitrate fertilizers
5. Chlorine
6. Flammable gases
7. Highly flammable liquids
8. Liquid oxygen
9. Sodium chlorate
10. Sulphur dioxide
11. Sulphur trioxide
12. Carbonylchloride
13. Hydrogen sulphide
14. Hydrogen fluoride
15. Hydrogen cyanide
16. Carbon disulphide
17. Bromine
18. Ethylene oxide
19. Propylene oxide
20. 2-Propenal (Acrolein)
21. Bromomethane (Methyl bromide)
22. Methyl isocyanate
23. Tetraethyl lead of tetramethyl lead
24. 1,2 Dibromoethane (Ethylenedibromide)
25. Hydrogen chloride (Liquified gas)
26. Diphenyl methane di-isocyanate (MDI)
27. Toluene di-isocyanate (TDI)

(c) Amendments made in October, 1994 to the MSIHC Rules makes it mandatory for industries, handling

and storing dangerous/poisonous chemicals in prescribed quantities, to get prior approval of their sites. A clearance from the environmental angle is also mandatory for such industries. Further the site and environmental clearance stipulates condition for safe operation.

[English]

### Desertification

\*216. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAIISI : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether India has signed the International Convention to combat desertification at Paris recently;

(b) if so, the details of the convention and the countries which signed it;

(c) the specific and special obligations devolved on Government as a result thereof; and

(d) the steps being taken to meet these obligations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The objective of this Convention, as stated in Article 2 thereof, is to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought in countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa, through effective action at all levels, supported by international cooperation and partnership arrangements. As on 14.2.95 a total of 97 countries and the European Union had signed the Convention.

(c) and (d). India is an affected country party and has the obligations listed in Article 5 of the Convention. In Brief, these entail giving priority to combating desertification, establishing strategies therefor, promoting awareness amongst and facilitating participation of all concerned and providing an appropriate enabling environment. The Desert Development Programme (DDP) and Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP) are already under implementation. A committee has been constituted for the preparation of a National Action Programme to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought.

[Translation]

### Carbonic Fertilizers

\*217. SHRI RAM PUJAN PATEL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether use of chemical fertilisers has reduced the water-storing capacity of land;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have formulated any

scheme to encourage the use of carbonic fertilizers to maintain the fertility of land; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the likely benefits therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Not Applicable.

(c) and (d). Yes, Sir. To encourage the use of organics (carbonic fertilisers) for enhancing and maintaining the fertility of the soils, Department of Agriculture and Cooperation is implementing central and centrally sponsored schemes namely, Balanced and Integrated Use of Fertilisers, National Project on Development of Fertiliser Use in Low Consumption and Rainfed Areas and National Project on Bio-Fertilisers. Under these schemes there is a provision to provide financial assistance to the State Governments/ organisations for production of compost, training of farmers on bio-composting, production of green-manure seed, demonstration on improved methods of compost making and setting-up of bio-fertiliser production units for production of Bio-fertilisers.

[English]

#### Prawn Farming

\*218. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether pollution has become a major menace due to indiscriminate prawn farming;

(b) whether the Government are monitoring the level of pollution caused by prawn farms;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether the Government have issued any guidelines to prawn farmers to control environmental hazards?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR) : (a) : No, Sir,

(b) and (c).

(i) The Governments of Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu, the State Pollution Control Boards concerned, the Marine Products Export Development Authority under the Ministry of Commerce and the Central Institute of Brackishwater Aquaculture under the Indian Council of Agricultural Research are monitoring the situation in the shrimp farms as well as in adjoining areas.

(ii) The National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI), Central Institute of Brackishwater Aquaculture (CIBA) and the Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) have undertaken field level studies on this aspect, in Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra.

(iii) The Government of Tamil Nadu has introduced a bill in the State Legislative Assembly on 15th March, 1995 and the Government of Andhra Pradesh are in the process of finalising the draft legislation for regulating shrimp aquaculture activity in the respective States. The proposed legislation has enabling provisions for correcting any imbalance caused to the environment by shrimp aquaculture activity, prescribing standards for discharge of waste water from shrimp culture ponds, etc.

(d) The Department of Agriculture and Cooperation in the Ministry of Agriculture has set up a Committee for drafting guidelines spelling out environmental safeguards for shrimp aquaculture. On the advice of Government of India, the State Governments particularly Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu have initiated action for educating the shrimp farmers on the need to control environmental hazards and developing shrimp aquaculture as a eco-friendly activity. The MPEDA have advised the farmers to adopt scientific methods of shrimp farm management.

[Translation]

#### UNICEF Aided Projects

\*219. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the projects which are currently in progress for the expansion of education with the assistance of UNICEF;

(b) the targets fixed at the time of introducing these programmes, State-wise;

(c) the progress made in this regard so far; and

(d) the amount spent on these programmes till date?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) UNICEF is providing assistance for four major educational activities:

(i) Bihar Education Project;

(ii) Advocacy for Education for All at National level;

(iii) Educational innovations;

(iv) Advocacy for Education for All at State and District level;

(b) and (c). Bihar Education Project envisages coverage of 150 block in 20 districts. 100 blocks in 7 districts have been covered so far. Mid-term review of the programme has recommended its consolidation in the existing 7 districts. Other programmes are process oriented and have no physical targets.

(d) Cumulative Expenditure since the commencement of Master Plan of Operations for UNICEF