

green belt around the Taj Mahal as suggested by NEERI in its report. This Ministry has set up a Special Cell for implementation of the green belt development plan.

(c) and (d) The Writ Petition (Civil) No. 13381 of 1984 regarding the preservation of the Taj Mahal called for first hearing by the Supreme Court in January 1993. Thereafter, various orders have been issued by the court. The Government have responded and conformed to the court orders, these include :

- (i) Constituting a special cell for implementation of a green belt development plan around the Taj Mahal.
  - (ii) Constituting of an expert committee on Atmospheric Environmental quality and Preservation of Taj Mahal and Agra Monuments.
  - (iii) Filing a positive response regarding relocation of industries in the Agra Mathura region.
- (e) Does not arise.

#### Forest Cover

1434. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VARMA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the different scientific methods deployed to measure the forest cover;

(b) whether the results arrived at by the different methods are cross-checked;

(c) if so, the outcome thereof;

(d) the most authentic technique of surveying the forest cover; and

(e) the amount being spent every year to measure the forest cover in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT) :  
(a) The Forest Survey of India is doing the assessment of forest cover of the country by the interpretation of the satellite data on a two years cycle. The interpretation is done by two methods, one by the visual interpretation of the satellite data and the second by the digital interpretation. The technique of digital interpretation is under the process of standardisation.

(b) and (c) For the assessment of the forest cover during 1993, an effort was made to interpret the satellite data for some of the areas digitally. While comparing the results of some areas interpreted both by visual and digital interpretation, it was revealed that the limitations of visual interpretation of satellite data can be overcome to some extent by the digital interpretation. The overall comparison also revealed that there was no significant difference in the total extent of forest cover assessment both by visual and digital interpretation.

(d) The technique of the assessment of forest cover both by the visual and digital interpretation are authentic.

(e) The amount spent during the last three years for the aforesaid activity is as under :-

	(Rs. in lacs)
1992-93	86.72
1993-94	78.42
1994-95	86.13

#### Western Kosi Canal

1435. SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Western Kosi Canal emanating from Bhimnagar Barrage in Nepal is capable of irrigating about seven and a half lakhs acres of land throughout the year;

(b) if so, the percentage of work completed in the Nepalese territory and to the east and west of river Kamla in the Indian territory; and

(c) the progress made regarding construction of syphon across river Kamla so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU) :  
(a) Ultimate Irrigation potential of the canal is 6.29 lakh acres.

(b) The percentage of work completed on this project is given below :

#### Nepal Portion

Barrage : Work completed.

Canal (35.13 km) : Completed

#### India Portion

Canal

Reach 0 to 56.58 km

Earthwork and lining : 99% completed

Structures : 62% completed, Additional 23% in progress.

Reach beyond 56.58 km : Works yet to be started.

(c) The progress made regarding construction of syphon across river Kamala is slow because of inadequacy of funds with the State Government.

#### Addition of Alcohol to Petrol

1436. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that in many of the western countries the vehicular pollution from petrol

due to tetra lead has been totally eliminated by addition of 10-20% alcohol in the petrol;

(b) whether the Government have been taking refuge variously by claiming molasses/alcohol shortage or on the plea of value added returns from the alcohol;

(c) whether the Government propose to decentralise the decision making in the matter and leave the matter to Oil Companies to enable them to market the environment friendly products; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT)

(a) Ethyl alcohol is one of the additives used in some of the western countries in the substitution of tetra-ethyl lead in petrol.

(b) Demonstration projects have been initiated to verify the possibility of substitution of tetra-ethyl lead by ethyl alcohol as one of the additives in petrol.

(c) and (d) The Bureau of Indian Standards has recommended the use of alcohols as a blend with petrol, to be used in a specific ratio either singly or as a mixture. In addition, the Bureau of Indian Standards has also recommended other additives such as others which can be used to substitute tetra-ethyl lead. The oil companies have the option to choose any of the recommended additives including adoption of better refining processes to meet the stipulated standards of petrol quality.

#### National Forestry Programme

1437. SHRI RAM NAIK : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) Whether the Government have prepared a National Forestry Programme in line with the Global Tropical Forestry Programme.

(b) if so, the salient features thereof;

(c) whether the World Bank has recommended participation of villagers in the up-keep of the forests; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT) : (a) Yes, Sir Government have taken action to prepare a National Forestry Action Programme.

(b) National Forestry Action Programme has identified the following salient features :

- (i) Protect existing forest resources.
- (ii) Increase forest productivity
- (iii) Strengthen policy and institutional framework.
- (iv) Reduce total demand.

(v) Expand forest area.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Government of India have issued detailed guidelines in June, 1990 to promote involvement of village communities in regeneration of degraded forest lands.

#### Infant Mortality

1438. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAM CHANDRAN : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any study has been made about the infant mortality in various States/Union Territories; and

(b) if so, the findings thereof, State-wise/Union Territory-wise?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY) : (a) and (b) The office of the Registrar General of India carries out surveys to estimate the Infant Mortality Rate through the Sample Registration System. The provisional estimates of the Infant Mortality Rates for the Major States for the year 1994, and the average estimate of Infant Mortality Rates for the Smaller States and Union Territories for the period 1992-94 are given in attached statements I and II respectively.

#### STATEMENT-I

Provisional estimates of Infant Mortality Rates (IMR)  
Major States - 1994

Per thousand live birth

Major States	IMR
1. Andhra Pradesh	63
2. Assam	77
3. Bihar	66
4. Gujarat	64
5. Haryana	67
6. Himachal Pradesh	67
7. Karnataka	65
8. Kerala	16
9. Madhya Pradesh	98
10. Maharashtra	54
11. Orissa	103
12. Punjab	53
13. Tamilnadu	59
14. Uttar Pradesh	88
15. West Bengal	61
16. Rajasthan	84