

(a) whether the Prime Minister had recently called some meetings in Delhi to resolve the inter-state water disputes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of the participating States in these meetings;

(d) the details of the discussions held; and

(e) the outcome thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI A. R. ANTULAY) : (a) to (e) . In pursuance of the order of the Supreme Court of India dated the 28th December, 1995 in the context of Cauvery Water Dispute, the Prime Minister held meetings on 30.12.1995, 31.12.1995 and 1.1.1996 wherein the Chief Ministers of Karnataka, Kerala, Pondicherry and Tamilnadu and leaders of various political parties in their respective Legislative Assemblies and some MPs and MLAs from these States were present. After examining the claims of these States, the Prime Minister requested the Chief Minister of Karnataka to provisionally release forthwith Six Thousand Million Cubic feet (TMC) of Cauvery water at the rate of one TMC of water per day (in addition to the quantity stipulated in the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal's interim order of June, 1991) for saving the standing crops in Tamilnadu. A three member Expert Group was also formed for making a careful and quick assessment of the ground situation in the States of Tamilnadu and Karnataka to decide about further arrangement.

#### Noise Pollution

\* 13. SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA :  
SHRI A. INDRAKARAN REDDY :

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the level of urban noise acceptable under the International Standards and the levels of noise observed in major towns/cities in India;

(b) the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have conducted any study in regard to noise pollution in various cities/places;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(e) the steps/measures taken by the Government to reduce the noise pollution ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT) : (a) and (b) . Noise levels observed in major towns/cities in India generally exceeded the standards in commercial, residential and silence zones during day time. The increasing trend of noise in these cities is due to increase in human activities including vehicular traffic.

#### *Noise-Exposure Limit recommended by World Health Organisation, 1980 :*

Environment	Recommended Maximum Level
<i>Industrial/Occupational</i>	75 decibels
<i>Community/Urban</i>	
Day time	55 decibels
Night time	45 decibels
<i>Indoor/Domestic</i>	
Day time	45 decibels
Night time	35 decibels

(c) and (d) . Yes, Sir. The Central Pollution Control Board has conducted noise pollution surveys in the following cities :

Sl. No.	City
1.	Ahmedabad
2.	Aurangabad
3.	Bangalore
4.	Bhopal
5.	Bombay
6.	Calcutta
7.	Cochin
8.	Coimbatore
9.	Delhi
10.	Hyderabad
11.	Indore
12.	Jaipur
13.	Kanpur
14.	Lucknow
15.	Madras
16.	Mangalore
17.	Vadodara
18.	Vishakhapatnam

Generally, the noise levels in residential, commercial and silence zones exceeded the standards during day time. In industrial areas, noise levels, though high, were within the standards.

(e) The steps taken by the Government to reduce noise pollution include the following :

Noise pollution has been included in the amended Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1987. Ambient standards in respect of noise for different categories of areas (residential, commercial, industrial and silence zones) have been

notified under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. Noise level notified under the Environment (Protection), 1986, are given below :

*Maximum Ambient Noise Levels Notified under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986*

Sl.No.	Category	Ambient Noise Standards (decibels)	
		Day time	Night time
1.	Industrial Area	75	70
2.	Commercial Area	65	55
3.	Residential Area	55	45
4.	Silence Zone	50	40

- Noise limits have also been prescribed for automobiles, domestic appliances and construction equipment at the manufacturing stage.
- A code of practice for controlling noise at source, other than industries and automobiles, has been evolved by the Central Pollution Control Board.
- Regulating the movement of heavy vehicles and segregating industries from residential areas.
- Environmental awareness campaigns have been initiated through governmental and non-governmental organisations.

[Translation]

**Eco Mark**

\*14. SHRI RAJENDRA KUMAR SHARMA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government have started sticking the label of "Eco Mark" to the ecologically friendly substances;
- (b) if so, the details of the steps taken by the Government in this direction;
- (c) the contribution of the State Governments to make this programme a success; and
- (d) the incentives provided by the Union Government in this regard ?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A scheme was launched by the Government in 1991 for labelling products which are environment friendly. The label is known as "Eco Mark". The objective was to encourage production and consumption of goods which met stipulated environmental criteria along with quality requirements of the Bureau of Indian Standards.

Under the EcoMark scheme, the Government have so far evolved and notified final criteria for the following eleven categories of products :

- (1) Toilet Soaps
- (2) Detergents
- (3) Paper
- (4) Architectural Paints
- (5) Laundry Soaps
- (6) Food Items Part-I (edible oils, tea & coffee)
- (7) Food Items Part-II (beverages, infant food, processed food and vegetable products)
- (8) Lubricating Oils
- (9) Packaging Part-I (paper boards & plastics excluding laminates)
- (10) Packaging Part-II (laminates & products thereof)
- (11) Automotive Lead Acid Batteries

The Government have given publicity to the EcoMark scheme.

- (c) State Governments have been urged to promote the Eco Mark scheme.
- (d) No incentive has been provided.

[English]

**Ganga Action Plan**

\*15. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA :  
SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH :

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government are aware that in spite of the expenditure of crores (290 crores for the 1st phase & proposed 110 crores for the 2nd phase), Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD), chromium, DDT, Mist-Oxygen traces are noticed in the Ganga water in Uttar Pradesh and even 160 million litre dust/waste is poured into Ganga water;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps proposed to be taken to make Ganga in real sense "pure"/unpolluted ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FOREST (SHRI RAJESH PILOT) :  
(a) to (c) . Under the Ganga Action Plan Phase I, 106 schemes of sewage interception, diversion and treatment, low cost sanitation, crematoria and others were sanctioned in Uttar Pradesh at an estimated cost of Rs. 184.8 crores. Out of these 102 schemes have been completed.

These schemes have resulted in intercepting 401 mld of sewage from directly entering the river Ganga. In the Jajmau area of Kanpur, a common effluent treatment plant has been set up to deal with effluent discharge from 175 tanneries. Chromium from this effluent has been trapped in sludge for landfill treatment. Treated sewage is being sent for use in sewage farms.

As a result of these measures, the water quality in terms of Dissolved oxygen (DO) and Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD)