

(c) whether the Government have conducted any enquiry in this regard;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(e) the measures taken/proposed to be taken to make these equipments functional ?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY) : (a) to (c). Yes, Sir. The surveys were got carried out by Deptt. of Electronics in 11 States during 1989 to 1993.

(d) and (e) . The survey revealed a number of possible reasons for equipment not being properly used such a lack of proper maintenance infrastructure, timely availability of spares etc. The State Electronics Corporation are taking steps for strengthening the Electro Medical Maintenance Centres in order to improve the better availability of Electro Medical equipments with the Co-operation of State Health authorities.

[English]

Adulteration in Edible Oils

67. SHRI TARA SINGH : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received complaints about large scale adulteration of edible oils in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the efforts made till date to nab the adulterators ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM) (SHRI VENOD SHARMA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Question does not arise.

Deforestation

68. SHRI DEVI BUX SINGH :
SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR :
SHRI UPENDRA NATH VERMA :

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

(a) whether the complaints of illegal deforestation from the various states, particularly from Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh are constantly being received by the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government for preventing deforestation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT) : (a) and (b). No complaints alleging large scale deforestation, particularly from Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh, have been received in this Ministry.

(c) The following steps are taken to prevent deforestation:

- Forest Conservation Act, 1980 has been enacted to prevent diversion of forest land for non-forestry purposes without approval of the Central Government.
- Indian Forest Act, 1927 and Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 are enforced to check forest and Wildlife offences.
- Special programmes like Project Tiger, Project Elephant etc. are implemented for conservation of rare and threatened species and habitats of biological significance.
- The afforestation/reforestation and eco-development programmes are being implemented for regeneration of degraded forest and in buffer areas of National Parks, sanctuaries, Project Tiger reserves etc.
- Wood substitution and fuel saving devices are promoted to substitute the use of wood, reduce consumption and prevent wastage.
- The afforestation and wastelands development programme are also being implemented in non-forest areas to reduce pressure on the forest and wildlife habitats.
- Joint Forest Management techniques and institutions are being developed for involvement of village communities and voluntary agencies in protection and regeneration of forests through usufruct sharing.

Panchayat Level Consultative Committees for Plantation

69. SHRI RABI RAY : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have formulated plans for panchayat level consultative committees for protection and conservation of forests and plantation in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the progress achieved so far in this direction ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Guidelines have been issued for constituting consultative committee at block and panchayat levels to promote mutual interaction between the forest officials and the communities. Such consultation will provide open forum for interaction between the communities, NGOs and forest officials. There will be quarterly meeting of consultative committee at block and panchayat levels. This will help in mutually assessing the performances of each other in respect of matters related to rehabilitation, maintenance and protection of forests. The Ministry has issued the guidelines to all the States and Union Territories on 7.12.1995.

Contribution of Sugar by States

70. SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :