

Forest Reserve Region

859. **Shri Girdhari Lal Bhargava** : Will the Minister of **Environment and Forests** be pleased to state :

(a) whether studies of forest reserve region are being made by the National Remote Sensing Agency, Hyderabad since 1972, through satellite ;

(b) whether there has been continuous reduction of the said forest reserve region ; and

(c) if so, the total forest area in the country in 1972 and the percentage of changes highlighted so far ?

The Minister of State of the Ministry of Environment and Forests (Shri Kamal Nath) : (a) The NRSA had assessed independently the Forest Cover of India in 1984 using the satellite data of 1972-75 and 1980-82 as one time exercise. The Forest Survey of India, Dehradun, is undertaking the Forest Cover assessment on a two years cycle basis commencing from 1981-83.

(b) According to the assessment of Forest Cover made by Forest Survey of India Dehradun for the period 1981-83 and 1985-87 the annual loss of forest cover has been estimated at 47,500 hectares.

(c) The total forest cover assessed by NRSA for periods 1972-75 and 1980-82 was 55.51 million hectares and 46.34 million hectares respectively. The NRSA estimates of forest cover suffered from many inadequacies and consequently the figures of NRSA for 1980-82 was reconciled with Forest Survey of India's figures and revised to 64.20 million hectares.

[English]

Development of Plots

860. **Shri Vijay Naval Patil** : Will the Minister of **Urban Development** be pleased to state :

(a) the number of residential plots under **Rohini Scheme**, 1981 allotted so far ;

(b) the number of residential plots developed by the DDA during each of the two previous years ;

(c) the number of registrants still waiting for allotment of residential plots ;

(d) the reasons for delay in making the allotment to all registrants ; and

(e) the time by which plots will be allotted to all the persons who are on the waiting list ?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Urban Development (Shri M. Arunachalam) : (a) 41,176.

(b) Year	Rohini
1989-90	3,834
1990-91	3,768

(c) 40,116.

(d) The delay in making the allotment is due to non-availability of potable water in Western Delhi, lack of facilities for the disposal of sewage and non-availability of power which are to be provided by MCD and DESU as also non-availability of land.

(e) All the existing registrants are expected to be allotted plots by the end of 1994-95, subject to availability of land.

Prohibition of Drugs sale in Metropolitan Cities

861. **Prof. Ram Kapse** : Will the Minister of **Welfare** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Youth pledges to shun drugs" appearing in Indian Express, Bombay Edition dated June 27, 1991 ;

(b) if so, whether the Government have since taken any steps to check drug abuse in the country ; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the number of persons arrested in Metropolitan Cities involved in drugs?

The Minister of Welfare (Shri Sitaram Kesri) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985 and the Prevention of Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drug and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1988 are in force in the country and are being implemented by the concerned agencies.

A comprehensive multidimensional strategy to combat drug abuse has been adopted. Under the Scheme of Assistance to Voluntary Organisations for Prohibition and Drug Abuse Prevention sponsored by the Ministry of Welfare 112 counselling centres, 44 de-addiction centres and 10 After-care Centres have been set up in States and Union Territories for providing counselling, deaddiction and after-care services to drug addicts. In addition, Government is also through voluntary organisations and media creating public awareness regarding the ill effects of drug abuse.

According to available information the number of persons arrested in Metropolitan Cities during the period January-June 1991 is as follows :—

	No. of persons arrested	
	Indians	Foreigners
Delhi	616	15
Calcutta	36	1
Bombay	141	33
Madras	154	9

Industrial Pollution in Metro cities

862. Mohammad Ali Ashraf Fatmi : Will the Minister of Environment and Forests be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that four metropolitan cities—Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta and Madras have been adversely affected by the industrial pollution ;

(b) if so, the names of mills and factories responsible for pollution in each of these metropolitan cities ;

(c) the action taken by the Government against such erring mills and factories during last three years ?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Environment and Forests (Shri Kamal Nath) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Government have identified 17 heavily polluting industries, namely Cement, Iron & Steel, Thermal Power Plant, Fertilisers, Zinc Smelter, Copper Smelter, Aluminium Smelter, Oil Refinery, Pulp & Paper, Basic Drugs, Dyes & Dye Intermediates, Pesticides, Petro-chemicals, Clusters of Tanneries, Pharmaceuticals, Sugar and Distillery. The names of polluting units in the four metropolitan cities are not available with Government.

The steps taken by Government to check pollution include the following :—

- (i) Effluent and emission standards have been prescribed under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.
- (ii) Networks of ambient air quality and ambient water quality monitoring stations have been set up.
- (iii) Environmental guidelines have been evolved for siting and operation of industries.
- (iv) Industries have been asked to comply with consent requirements of the State Pollution Control Boards to keep the discharge of effluents and emissions within the stipulated limits.
- (v) A time-bound action plan for control of highly polluting 17 categories of industries has been prepared in consultation with the State Governments and a Notification has been issued under which polluting units are required to meet the standards by December 31, 1991.