

“Pollution by Steel/Cement Plants in the Country”

1260. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the major steel/cement plants of our country have now been surrounded by habitation;

(b) whether these industrial units are not fully equipped to control pollution caused by smoke/gas and effluents; and

(c) whether a thorough survey of these units will be made and steps taken to check the present pollution ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BIR SEN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) All the major steel plants are equipped with pollution control facilities. Majority of cement plants have pollution control systems which are functioning satisfactorily. Some of them need improvement in their performance.

(c) A survey has been made on the effluents of steel plants and the concerned authorities have been directed for necessary action. An inventory on pollution control status in cement plants has also been made. Standards have been prescribed for control of emissions from the steel and cement plants.

Outlay for Minimum Needs Programme for West Bengal

1261. SHRI BHOLA NATH SEN : Will the MINISTER OF PLANNING be pleased to state :

(a) whether West Bengal is lagging behind in achieving the objectives of the Minimum Needs Programme included in the States Sixth Five Year Plan; and

(b) if so :—

(i) the sectors/objectives in which West Bengal is lagging behind;

(ii) what was the target for achieving these objectives by 1984-85;

(iii) to what extent this objective has been achieved so far, and

(iv) what was the total outlay approved by the Planning Commission for [such Programmes in West Bengal for the period 1980-85 and to what extent this outlay was utilised by the Government of West Bengal ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI K.R. NARAYANAN) : (a) and (b). Attached statements I and II show respectively the financial and the physical targets and achievements under the different components of the Minimum Needs Programme in West Bengal during the Sixth Plan (1980—85).