

in this context. The details would be incorporated in the Plan document.

Strategy to Control Environmental Pollution

1058. **SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI:** Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government are considering to formulate a strategy to control environmental pollution;

(b) if so, whether experts are of the view that if action was not taken soon, India might soon become another America, buried in mounds of non-bio-degradable plastic; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI):

(a) Measures to control environmental pollution have been in operation in our country for more than a decade. The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981, and the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, have been enacted to control pollution in the country. Standards for 31 specific industries have also been notified under the Environment (Protection) Act. The Air and Water Acts have been further amended to make them more stringent for efficient control of pollution. A National Waste Management Council has been formed to evolve policies on solid waste utilisation and its disposal.

(b) and (c). While there has been a growing awareness about the dangers of environmental degradation and in that context a widespread concern about the urgency of anti-pollution measures, there does

not appear to be any scientific basis to any such view that India will be buried in mounds of non-biodegradable plastic if action is not taken soon.

Outlay for Rural Sector

1059. **SHRIMATI BASAVA RAJESWARI:** Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission is considering to raise outlay for rural sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the programme to be undertaken in the rural areas during 1990-91?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It is proposed to allocate 50 per cent of public sector outlay on programmes and projects of benefit to rural areas.

(c) There are a number of programmes for the benefit of rural areas in the Annual Plan 1990-91, Centre and the States, broadly in the following categories:—

(i) Development of Agricultural and Allied Sectors.

(ii) Rural Development including Self and Wage Employment Programmes, Area Development and Land Reforms.

(iii) Creation of Irrigation and flood control facilities.

(iv) Rural electrification, roads, housing, water supply and other infrastructure programmes.

(v) Rural health and education.