

maintenance infrastructure such as packing/grading and transportation.

Presently, 1738 Blocks are covered under the Revamped PDS.

[*English*]

[*Translation*]

Revamping of P.D.S.

65. SHRI ZAINAL ABEDIN: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the extent to which the revamping of PDS scheme has achieved success so far;

(b) the number of identified blocks which are likely to be brought under the purview of this scheme by the end of the current financial year; and

(c) the details of the requisite infrastructure built up in those blocks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) (a) to (c). The Revamped Public Distribution System (RPDS) has been in existence for just over a year. As per reports received from the State Governments/UT Administrations, 10121 fair shops have been opened and 26 lakhs ration cards issued till 31st January, 1993. Nearly Rs. 8 crores for construction of godowns and about Rs. 6 crores for purchase of mobile vans is being provided as financial assistance to States/UTs in 1992-93.

Many State Governments/UT Administrations have made arrangements for delivery of PDS commodities at the doorsteps of the fair price shops. Fair Shops/Village level Vigilance Committee have been set up by State Governments/UT. Administration for monitoring the supply and distribution of PDS commodities.

Pollution Control

66. SHRI JANGBIR SINGH:
SHRI PALA K.M. MATHEW:
DR. P.R. GANGWAR:
SHRI S.B. THORAT:

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

(a) the main sources of air, water and noise pollution in the country;

(b) the steps taken by the Government to check such pollution during the last three years; and

(c) the success achieved in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a). Unstarred urban sewage, agricultural run off, industrial activities, and emissions from vehicles, are the main causes of air, water and noise pollution.

(b) The steps taken by the Government in this regard are:

i) Industries have been asked to comply with consent requirements of the State Pollution Control Boards to limit the discharge of effluents and emissions to the stipulated standards;

ii) Fiscal incentives are provided for installation of pollution control equipment and also for the shifting of polluting industries from congested areas;

iii) Schemes have been initiated to give assistance to small scale industrial units for

effluent treatment and adoption of clean technology;

iv) Network of ambient air quality and ambient water quality monitoring stations has been strengthened;

v) Environmental Audit has been introduced in order to encourage waste minimization and recycling of waste among industries;

(c) There is a decreasing trend in the emissions and effluent from industries, particularly from the large and medium units.

Pollution by Coal Industries

67. SHRI BHUBANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have conducted any survey regarding pollution being caused by the coal industries in the country, particularly in Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures taken by the Government to check this pollution?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b). A study on the pollution problems in the coal belt of Bihar has been initiated. The focus of the study is on the pollution caused by coal mines, coal washeries, coke ovens, briquette and soft coke plants.

(c) The measures taken by the Government to check the pollution are:

- (i) Effluent and emission standards have been prescribed under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

(ii) Environmental guidelines have been evolved for siting and operation of industries.

(iii) Fiscal incentives are provided for installation of pollution control equipment and shifting of polluting industries from congested areas.

(iv) A scheme has been initiated for providing subsidy for clusters of small scale industries to set up common effluent treatment plants.

The special measures taken by the Government to check pollution by coal industries in Bihar are:

(i) Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL), Central Coal Fields Limited (CCL) and Eastern Coalfields Limited (ECL) have taken up large scale tree plantation. The Companies in the area have been directed to comply with the stipulated standards.

(ii) The District Administration of Dhanbad and Bihar State Pollution Control Board have jointly started a movement of "Greening Dhanbad".

(iii) New project for coal mines are cleared by the Ministry of Environment and Forests after the Project proponents have prepared a satisfactory mining plan.

(iv) Oil and grease content in effluent from coal mines has been stipulated as 5.0 mg per litre due to lower carrying capacity of river Damodar as against a standard of 10 mg per litre.

(v) UNIDO has been consulted to chalk out an action plan for Dhanbad-Bokaro coal belt area.