

country's needs to prevent pollution of water and if so, details thereof and time frame in which the problem is proposed to be tackled ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI VIR SEN) : (a) Yes, Sir; Some stretches of rivers, primarily those in the neighbourhood of large cities are polluted.

(b) Pollution of major rivers in the country is contributed by disposal of untreated waste water from the cities and towns (80% to 90% of total pollution). Pollution potential in the river Ganga basin arising out of human habitation, industrial use fertiliser/pesticides etc. has been estimated. Municipal waste water accounting for 80% to 90% and industrial effluents for 10% to 20%. Studies on river-basin specific pollution on discharge from farms, fertilizers and pesticides (except for Ganga) have not been made. Studies are being initiated in the basins of Brahmani, Brahmaputra, Cauvery, Krishna, Damodar, Mahi and Sabarmati in the 7th Plan and such studies on the remaining rivers of the country will be taken up and plans drawn later on.

(c) and (d). Yes, Sir; An expert Committee constituted by the Department of Environment has prepared an Action Plan for the Prevention of pollution of Ganga. Under the first phase of the programme, 27 class I cities would be taken up at an estimated cost of Rs. 250 crores.

(e) No such perspective plan has been drawn so far. However, plans will be formulated in due course of time. Time frame cannot be predicted at this stage.

[*Translation*]

Complaints Against Military Officers of Danapur Cantonment Recruitment Office

2352. SHRI ABDUL HANNAN ANSARI : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of complaints received by Central Bureau of Investigation, Patna against the Military Officers of Danapur Cantonment Recruitment Office from January, 1963 to 20 March, 1985; and

(b) the number of complaints disposed of and those which are still pending ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI-MATI RAM DULARI SINHA) : (a) and (b). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[*English*]

Loss of Forests Due to Floods

2353. SHRI BANWARI LAL BAIRWA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the causes of the increased intensity of floods all over the country;

(b) the extent to which loss of forests are responsible for such a phenomenon; and

(c) the details of the schemes for preservation of forests in hill areas to prevent floods ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI VIR SEN) : (a) The main causes of increased intensity of floods in the country are.

(i) Denudation of forests;

(ii) Excessive grazing;

(iii) Extension of agriculture and horticulture to steep slopes without conservation measures;

(iv) Poor drainage;

(v) Abnormal rainfall; and

(vi) Tidal bores.

(b) Though the exact extent cannot be quantified, denudation of forests is a major cause of floods.

(c) A statement is attached.

Statement

Steps taken/proposed to be taken to conserve and develop the forests of the country including those in the hilly areas.

(i) The Forest (conservation) Act, 1980 has been enacted to check indiscriminate diversion of forest

lands to non-forest purposes.

- (ii) Guidelines have been issued to the States and Union Territories for preparation of working (management) plans for the working of forests and to strengthen the enforcement machinery at the field level.
- (iii) The National Forest Policy is being reviewed to provide the needed thrust in favour of forest conservation and to create a massive peoples' movement for this purpose.
- (iv) An indepth study is being undertaken with a view to work out the modalities for relieving pressure on forests, specially by encouraging the use of substitute materials.
- (v) As a measure to relieve the pressure on our forest resources, it has been proposed in the 1985-86 budget to totally exempt from duty imported pulp and wood chips and make this concession available to all user industries. Customs duty on wood in certain specified forms is also proposed to be reduced from the existing level of 120 per cent to 10 per cent *ad valorem*.
- (vi) A Centrally Sponsored Scheme; "Integrated Watershed Management in the Catchments of flood-prone rivers of the Gangetic Basin" has been in operation since 1980-81 in the States of Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal and the Union Territory of Delhi.
- (vii) The pace of tree planting has been stepped up with the launching of Centrally Sponsored Schemes :
 - (i) "Soil, Water and Tree Conservation in the Himalayas"
 - (ii) "Social Forestry, including Rural Fuelwood Plantation and
 - (iii) other social forest projects.

The efforts are to be strengthened in the Seventh Plan period (1985-90).

Bio-Gas Plants Through K.V.I.B.

2354. SHRI HUSSAIN DALWAI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

- (a) the number of bio-gas plants so far installed through the agency of Khadi and Village Industries Board;
- (b) the State-wise break up of such bio-gas plants; and
- (c) whether these plants proved to be useful to the people ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, SPACE AND ELECTRONICS (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL) : (a) and (b). The Government is implementing National Project on Biogas Development (NPBD), to establish family based biogas plants. Similarly large sized community and institutional biogas plants are also being established under a demonstration scheme for communities and institutions in various States. The implementing agencies for both these programmes are State Government, and Khadi & Village Industries Commission. In Madhya Pradesh, however, the State Government has designated Madhya Pradesh Khadi & Village Industries Board as the nodal agency for receiving grants directly from DNES under NPBD. A statement indicating number of plants established by Khadi & Village Industries Commission statewide and Government of M.P. through its Madhya Pradesh Khadi & Village Industries Board under N.P.B.D. since 1981-82 year-wise is enclosed.

(c) The response of people to the setting up of biogas plants has been very encouraging. These plants provide clean fuel and good quality manure. Other benefits include reduction in indiscriminate felling of trees, improvement in rural sanitation, easy and efficient cooking and reduction in the incidence of eye diseases among village women and children.