

[Translation]

"Checking Pollution in Ghagra River"

2543. SHRI NIRMAL KHATRI : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(c) whether any plan to check pollution in 'Ghagra river' is being considered by the Central Government; and

(b) whether Government are aware that Ghagra river passes through Ayodhya, the place of pilgrimage and there is much pollution in it ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI VIR SEN) : (a) No pollution control scheme for Ghagra is under consideration of Central or State Government.

(b) Yes, Sir; However, there is only some pollution from domestic sewage, solid waste and effluents of an industry.

[English]

"Special Fines on Anti-Pollution and Anti-Hazard Measures"

2544. SHRI PURNA CHANDRA MALIK : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have contemplated to levy special fines for violating anti-pollution and anti-hazard measures;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI VIR SEN) : (a) Under the provisions of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 polluters can be penalised, and fines can be imposed for violation of anti-pollution measures.

(b) The enabling provisions are under Sections 41, 42, 43, 44 and 45 of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and Sections 37, 38 and 39 of the Air

(Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981.

(c) Does not arise.

Abolition of Custom Duty on Imported CZ Silicon Crystals and Wafers

2545. SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISRA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government abolished about 70 percent customs duty on imported CZ silicon crystals and wafers in 1983, which is also produced in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons for such heavy reduction in the custom duty for the imported stuff; and

(c) the details of compensating incentives given to Indian producers ?

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) Government reduced the Customs Duty on Silicon Single Crystals and Wafers to 40% in August, 1983 as a part of the package of incentives given to electronics industry.

(b) The main objective of this exercise was to bring down the prices of electronic components and equipment manufactured in the country.

(c) Simultaneously, the customs duty on the polysilicon, a basic material to manufacture Silicon Single Crystals and subsequently into wafers, was also reduced from 87% to 0% as part of the above package. Subsequently, incentives were given in terms of reduction of duty from 40% to 0% on quartz crucibles used in the manufacture of Single Crystals Silicon.

12.00 hrs.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur) : Mr. Speaker, I wish to draw your attention to the fact that after I had brought to the notice of the House two serious matters, fortunately Government has