

Curb on Untouchability

604. SHRI R.P. DAS : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the measure in curbing untouchability has become diluted with a large number of cases ending in acquittals;

(b) the reasons behind such acquittals;

(c) whether Government have any proposal to deal with such cases expeditiously; and

(d) if so, details thereof;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA) : (a) to (d). Sir, it cannot be said that measure in curbing untouchability has become diluted since there are also cases of convictions. The main reason for acquittals, however, is that the victims do not come forward to give evidence in the courts. In this matter the following measures have been taken by State Governments :—

(a) Schemes for providing legal aid to Scheduled Caste victims have been introduced.

(b) Officers have been appointed for speedy investigation and supervision of PCR Act cases, at different levels.

(c) Committees for reviewing the working of PCR Act machinery have been set up.

(d) Special/Mobile Courts for prompt/ on the spot disposal of cases of PCR Act and crimes against Scheduled Castes have been set up.

"Decision to Keep Delhi Free from Industrial Pollution"

605. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government had decided to keep New Delhi free from industrial pollution; and

(b) if so, the steps taken therefor

during the last three years; the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BIR SEN) : (a) and (b). The measures being taken for reducing industrial pollution in New Delhi include the following :

(i) Industries are persuaded to instal pollution control equipment and legal actions are taken against the erring units;

(ii) Incentives are provided for installation of pollution control equipment and shifting of pollution units from the congested areas;

(iii) Under the industrial licensing system, for site selection and issue of licences, a procedure has been established for environmental evaluation of industries which are polluting in nature.

(iv) Steps are also being taken to maintain adequate tree cover for acting as a protective barrier against air-borne dust.

"Establishment of a Plant Resource Centre in Orissa"

606. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the amount sanctioned so far for the establishment of a Plant Resource Centre named as "Ekamra Kanan" near Bhubaneswar in Orissa;

(b) the total cost of the project; and

(c) the amount proposed to be sanctioned for that project 1985-86 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BIR SEN) : (a) to (c). According to the proposal received from the Department of Science, Technology and Environment, Govt. of Orissa, the total outlay of the project has been shown as Rs. 116 lakhs non-recurring and Rs. 8 lakhs