

National Committee on the Use of Plastics in Agriculture (NCPA). The report of the NCPA has been sent to the State Governments requesting them to draw up Action Plan in each of their concerned departments such as irrigation, agriculture, forestry, etc. for promotion of use of plasticulture as recommended by NCPA. It has also been suggested to the State Governments to constitute/reactivate a small and compact State level Committee with which the reconstituted NCPA could interact and coordinate the matters for implementation of the various recommendations.

Trade mark applications

2612. PROF. RAMKRISHNA MORE : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the number of applications for 'trade marks' pending (till date) with each of the registry offices;

(b) the number of applications which are pending for more than two, three and four years stating the reasons for delay in finalising these applications; and

(c) the measures taken by Government for their expeditions processing and finalisation and for clearance of the backlog ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) All the applications filed at the Branch Office are processed and examined centrally at the Head Office in Bombay. The total number of applications pending examination in the Head Office as on 30.6.1986 is 40862.

(b) The number of applications pending for over two years but less than three years is 8456. The main reason for the backlog is the tremendous increase in the number of filling of applications.

(c) Every effort is made to speed up the examination of the applications.

Processing of applications for Trade Marks

2613. SHRI P. R. KUMARAMAN-GALAM : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government machinery for processing of applications for Trade Marks is very slow and cumbersome and is in no way helpful to the applicants as reported in the Economic Times dated 26 June, 1986; and

(b) if so, corrective steps taken/proposed in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) and (b). No, Sir. However, there is a normal backlog of applications due to very large receipts which involve prior search and examination and every effort is being made to speed up the examination of these applications.

Air pollution around power and coal mining projects

2614. DR. G. S. RAJHANS : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether he has recently urged that steps should be taken to prevent air pollution around power and coal mining projects in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the power projects in the country where high efficient electrostatic precipitators would be installed; and

(c) what other steps would be taken by Government to minimise the ash dust in the atmosphere from the power plants ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). All new thermal power stations under installation are being provided