

under the COFEPOSA Act in Goa, Daman and Diu, during the last two years is as under :

No. of persons detained	No. of persons released by Advisory Board/ Courts
27	18

(b) Prosecution against 8 persons was filed under the Customs Act in Goa, Daman and Diu during the last two years and out of these, 2 persons were convicted.

(c) The number of persons detailed under COFEPOSA Act and number of persons arrested under Customs Act during the last two years is as under :

No. of persons detained under COFEPOSA	No. of persons arrested under Customs Act
1572	5853

Setting up of Environment Courts

2426. SHRI RANJIT SINGH GAEKWAD : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Supreme Court's suggestion for setting up of the Environmental Courts on regional basis has been examined by the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which such courts are likely to be set up;

(c) whether maximum number of cases on environmental pollution are reported from Gujarat, particularly from Baroda; and

(d) if so, the number of environmental courts to be set up in the Western region and particularly in Gujarat ?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BHAJAN LAL) : (a), (b) and (d). The suggestion of the

Supreme Court for establishment of environmental courts is under the examination of the Government.

(c) Upto 31.12.1986, among the states, the maximum number, 198 cases are reported from Gujarat. The Baroda region accounts for 56 cases.

Thorium Deposits in Atomic Belts

2427. DR. S. JAGATHRAKSHAKAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the amount of thorium deposits available in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether all the thorium is being utilised as a fuel, in the atomic power plants for generating power;

(c) the quantity of thorium being used as fuel at Kalpakkam and its cost; and

(d) if the cost is higher, the steps taken to reduce it ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN) : (a) Approximately 3,63,000 tonnes of thorium metal is available in the beach and inland placer deposits of the country, mainly in Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Orissa, and to a lesser extent, in Bihar, West Bengal and Andhra Pradesh.

(b) No, Sir. Only a small amount of thorium is being used on an experimental basis.

(c) and (d). A small quantity of thorium has been irradiated at Trombay and reprocessed to extract a few hundred grams of U-233, which was used in the reactor Purnima-II on an experimental basis. It is expected that further experiments to be carried out in the Fast Breeder Test Reactor at Kalpakkam will provide in due course, data about conversion efficiency and economic costs of thorium in the generation of power.