

Replacement of Irreparable Bogies

8816. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that some of the railway bogies in use are in a pitiable condition of disrepair particularly in respect of electrical and sanitary fittings;

(b) whether it is proposed to replace these bogies ;

(c) the procedure for discarding or withdrawing irreparable bogies and replacing them by new stock ; and

(d) whether any survey is in progress in this regard in various railway zones in the country particularly in respect of local or ordinary passenger trains ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Coaches are condemned on age-cum-condition basis. All the overaged coaches retained in service are fit for train service.

(d) Condemnation of coaches is a continuous process. The overaged coaches whenever received in workshops for overhaul are examined for fitness. Only those coaches which fully comply with the safety and amenity standards and are economical to repair are retained in service.

Respiratory Diseases due to Pollution

8817. SHRI AMARSINH RATHAWA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the main cause of the spreading of tuberculosis, asthma and allergic diseases is indoor pollution ; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to solve the problem by educating the people living in hutments or in slum areas in various cities ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE) : (a) Pollution of air can trigger attacks of asthma, allergic diseases, and acute respiratory infections except Tuberculosis, which is primarily caused due to infection with Tubercle Bacilli.

(b) As a part of the general health education campaign, the community is advised to lead hygienic and healthy living and keep the surroundings clean so that the pollution is reduced to the minimum possible extent.

Protection of Tropical Forests

8818. SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether leader of Chipko movement has made a fervent appeal for the protection of tropical forests which are the last oxygen banks on the earth and are being destroyed at the rate of 40 hectares a minute ;

(b) whether Government propose to take adequate measures for the the protection and conservation of tropical forests in the country ; and

(c) if so, the details of steps taken by Government ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Steps taken by the Central Government are given in the Statement given below.

Statement

1. National Wastelands Development Board set up in 1985 with the object of bringing 5 million hectares of land every year under fuelwood and fodder plantation.

2. Projects for soil, water and tree conservation in the Himalyas (Operation Soilwatch) and other afforestation programmes in operation.

3. Guidelines issued to the State Governments

- (i) to avoid clearfelling of natural forests and where such fellings are inevitable for restoration of crop or other silvicultural considerations, it should be restricted to areas not exceeding 10 hectares in the hills and 25 hectares in the plains.
- (ii) to consider banning of fellings in the hills above 1000 metres, at least for some years.
- (iii) to identify critical areas in the hills and mountains which require protection from felling of forests and need immediate vigorous afforestation.
- (iv) to set apart 4% of the geographical area as protection areas like wildlife sanctuaries, national parks, biosphere reserves etc.

4. Development of infrastructure and enforcement of legal provisions for the protection of forests. Initiation of a centrally sponsored scheme to assist the States in this regard.

5. Enactment of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, to check diversion of forest land to non-forest purposes.

6. Development of alternative sources of energy to replace fuelwood in domestic and commercial sectors.

7. Substitution of wood by alternative materials in packaging, railway sleepers and building construction.

8. Liberalised import policy for forest products.

9. Fiscal incentives to industry which lead to wood substitution.

10. Use of preservative treatment stressed to prolong timber life, leading to reduction in demand.

11. Control of shifting cultivation.

Mosquito Menace in Faridabad and NOIDA

8819. SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the mosquito menace in the industrial city of Faridabad and NOIDA has increased ;

(b) whether Government have any plans to take immediate steps to curb the menace; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI MOTILAL VORA) : (a) to (c). With the onset of spring season, density of culex mosquitoes has increased in the industrial areas of NOIDA and Faridabad. Increase in density of mosquito population in this month is natural.

The following steps are being taken to control the menace and the disease of malaria associated with it.

RURAL AREAS : In the rural areas, control measures taken are directed against adult mosquitoes which transit the disease.

1. Timely and adequate spraying with appropriate insecticides to kill the malaria vectors

2. Early detection and treatment of malaria cases.

3. Health education for personal protection.

URBAN AREAS : In the urban areas, measures taken are mainly directed against the aquatic forms of the vectors :

1. Recurrent anti-larval operations at weekly intervals with mosquito larvicidal oil and organo-phosphorous larvicides.

2. Source reduction to reduce the mosquito breeding places.

3. Space spraying with pyrethrum extract in and around the houses where malaria cases are detected.