

(b) if so, the remedial measures taken by Government to counter the environment pollution in those areas;

(c) whether Government exercises any check from the point of view of pollution before issuing licence for establishing new industrial units; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI): (a) No, Sir; However pockets of some big cities are facing such a situation.

(b) All medium and large scale chemical industries coming under the category of polluting industries have to obtain necessary clearance from the respective State Pollution Control Boards and the State Government from environmental angle. Besides, Public Sector Central Government Projects are required to get the environmental clearance of the Ministry of Environment and Forests. The remedial measures include pollution abatement action under the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, the Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1981, and the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

(c) and (d). Yes, Sir. In case of 20 polluting industries, it has been decided by the Government that the letters of intent will be converted into industrial licence only after the following conditions have been fulfilled:-

(i) The State Director of Industries confirms that the site of the project has been approved from the environmental angle by the competent State Authority;

(ii) The entrepreneur commits both to the State Government and the Central Government that he will install the appropriate equipment and implement the prescribed measures for the prevention and control of pollution;

(iii) The concerned State Pollution Control Board has certified that the proposal meets with the environmental requirements and that the equipment installed or proposed to be installed are adequate and appropriate to the requirements.

Schemes for Construction of Houses by Owners of Plots

1006. SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWAJ: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently introduced a new scheme regarding construction of houses by owners of plots allotted by DDA; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Narmada (Indira) Sagar Dam

1007. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the experts have opined that the construction of the Narmada (Indira) Sagar Dam in Madhya Pradesh is likely to cause earthquakes due to the reservoir induced seismicity;

(b) if so, the area of forest likely to be affected by the project; and

(c) whether Government have accorded final approval to the project?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI): (a) It is generally believed that creation of reservoirs results in an increase of seismic activity but not in its intensity. It is the international practice to generate adequate data based on which one can conclude whether there is any increased reservoir

induced seismicity or not. Accordingly, setting up of stations for seismic surveillance and monitoring in this area has been decided on the basis of studies done by the Central Water and Power Research Station, Pune.

(b) The forest area likely to be affected by the project is 41,11.97 ha.

(c) Yes, sir.

Ban on Import of Hazardous Chemicals

1008. SHRI H.B. PATIL:
SHRI JAGANNATH PATNAIK:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether at a Conference of officers of States and Union Territories, on management of hazardous substances and pollution control, held in December 1988, a strong recommendation has been made for stopping the clandestine import of hazardous wastes; and

(b) if so, the details regarding the recommendations made at the Conference?

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

(b) The Conference stressed the importance of controlling the import of hazardous substances in the country with the help of the customs authorities and the Chief Controller of Imports and Exports under the guidance of the Ministry of Environment and Forests. It also recommended incorporation of suitable rules and regulations under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

English]

Fire in Office of Ministry of Environment and Forests

1009. SHRI S.D. SINGH:
SHRI SARFARAZ AHMAD:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether recently there was an incident of fire in the office of the Ministry of Environment at C.C.O Complex, New Delhi;

(b) if so, the causes of the fire and the total loss incurred; and

(c) whether some important documents were also burnt in this fire and if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) It has not been possible to determine the exact cause of the fire. However, either an electrical short circuit or inadvertant non-switching off of some heating electrical appliance is suspected to have caused the fire.

The total loss due to fire is estimated at Rs. 6.32 lakhs mainly in the form of stationery, canteen stores and furnitures, recreation equipment, office equipment, etc.

(c) No, Sir. The fire directly affected only one wing of the sixth floor of Paryavaran Bhawan which was mainly occupied by canteen, Dining Room, Recreation Room, stationery and miscellaneous stores.

[English]

Persons Suffering from Various Diseases

1010. SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey has been conducted by Government regarding the persons suffering from blindness, leprosy, insanity, anaemia, tuberculosis and venereal diseases in India;

(b) if so, the percentage of increase in these diseases; and

(c) the steps Government have taken to check them during the last three years, particularly in the state of Orissa?