

(c) the details of steps taken in this direction and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DLABIR SINGH): (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Fall in Export of Coir

3211. SHRI JAGANNATH PATTNAIK: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has lost her domination in the world Coir Market with Sri Lanka supplying superior coir products at more competitive prices;

(b) if so, whether Union Government have made any study regarding the factors leading to the fall in export of coir in the world market; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) While Sri Lanka has made significant progress in coir fibre exports, India still continues to be the leading exporter of coir products including yarn in this sector.

(b) and (c). The main constraints in increasing India's coir exports are outdated production technique, low productivity, high prices and competition from cheaper synthetic and other natural substitutes.

"Effects of CFCS and Halons"

3212. SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether effect of Chlorofluorocar-

bons (CFCS) and halons which are known to deplete ozone in the atmosphere have been studied by our scientists in the country and if so, the results thereof;

(b) the percentage of CFCs produced in India vis-a-vis other industrial countries;

(c) whether there are any plans to gradually switch over to other safer alternative to CFCs and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether India is a party to the Vienna Convention or the Montreal protocol?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI): (a) It has been scientifically established that Chlorofluorocarbons and halons once released into the atmosphere act towards depletion of stratospheric ozone. Observations by Indian Scientists have also confirmed this phenomenon.

(b) The production in India is estimated to be about 0.6% of the world production. Over 85% of the world production is by industrialised countries.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) No, Sir.

Survey of Medicinal Plants in Indian Ocean

3213. DR. PHULRENU GUHA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey of Indian Ocean has been undertaken for availability of Medicinal Plants in the Ocean; and

(b) if so, the findings thereof?