

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : the Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Toxic Wastes

*184. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the toxic wastes such as lead ash, scrap batteries, plastic waste etc being imported from Western countries by certain industrial and business houses are exposing our country to serious health hazards;

(b) if so, the names of these importers and quantity of these items imported during each of the last three years;

(c) the action plan in operation to deal with the pollution hazards caused by the toxic waste dumps along with the results achieved thereunder; and

(d) the further action proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) The import of hazardous wastes are regulated under Rule 11 of the Hazardous Wastes (Management and Handling) Rules, 1989, notified by the Government of India, Ministry of Environment and Forests under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. According to these Rules (Rule 11), the import of hazardous wastes from any country to India is not permitted for dumping and disposal. However, import of such wastes are allowed for processing or reuse as raw materials, after examining each case on merit. Any import of hazardous wastes would come under the purview of these Rules. The Government of India is a Party to the Basel Convention on the Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal and imports of hazardous wastes are also examined as per the obligations under this Convention.

(b) Details pertaining to the waste imports permitted by this Ministry is enclosed as Statement.

(c) The pollution caused by the toxic waste dumps are being dealt with in accordance with the provisions under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 and Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. The Hazardous Wastes (Management and Handling) Rules, 1989 provides for necessary controls for the same. The Government of India is providing financial assistance to identify sites to be developed into secured landfills for the disposal of hazardous wastes. So far, 15 States have been provided with financial assistance for the development of 23 sites.

(d) The State Pollution Control Boards and the State Governments have been requested to take urgent necessary action for inventorization of the hazardous wastes and development of secured landfills for disposal of such wastes.

STATEMENT

List of units granted permission to import hazardous wastes under Hazardous Wastes (Management and Handling) Rules, 1989 upto July, 1996

1. *Importer*—M/s. Balmer Lawrie and Co. Ltd. Calcutta

One time permission for the import of 150 KL of waste oil for trial runs for R and D project in December 1993.

Exporting country - Dubai.

2. *Importer*—M/s. Southern Refiners Ltd. Trivandrum.

One time permission for import of 8000 barrels of waste oil for trial run to demonstrate waste oil re-refining by vacuum distillation technology in 1994.

Exporting country - UK.

3. *Importer*—M/s. Zinc Smelters and Refiners India Pvt. Ltd. Bombay

One time permission for the import of single consignment of not exceeding 20,000 MT of zinc containing residual dusts (steel mill dust) on 20th June, 1994.

Exporting country - Germany.

4. *Importer*—M/s. Bharat Zinc Ltd., Bhopal.

Permission was granted for negotiating the import of 17,000 MT of zinc ash/dross/scrap from various countries of Europe with a condition that clearance would be sought from time to time on each consignment by providing necessary shipment details. Imports from Germany, Netherlands and Sweden were permitted.

Exporting country - Germany, The Netherlands and Sweden.

5. *Importer*—M/s. Indo-Zinc Ltd. Dhar, MP.

Permission was granted for import of 1000 MT containing zinc ash/dross/scrap on 8th May, 1995.

Exporting country - The Netherlands.

6. *Importer*—M/s. Associated Pigments Ltd., Calcutta.

Permission was granted for import of 3,500 MT of lead waste containing lead dross/residue/scrap on 11 December, 1995 as per the recommendations of the Committee constituted for this purpose under this Ministry.

Exporting country - South Korea.

7. *Importer*—M/s. Indian Lead Limited, Bombay.

Permission granted only to negotiate the import of lead dross/residue/scrap for use in their Thane unit as per the recommendations of the Committee constituted for this purpose on 21st November, 1995. No permission has been given for any consignment so far.

* All imports were permitted subject to the requirement under Hazardous Wastes (Management and Handling) Rules, 1989 and the conditions stipulated for the purpose.

Railway Line from Jammu to Srinagar

*185. SHRI GULAM RASOOL KAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any survey has been executed for laying Railway line from Jammu and Srinagar; and

(b) if so, the time by which this project is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The line from Jammu to Udhampur (54 kms) is already under construction and is currently targeted for completion in 1997-98. The line from Udhampur to Baramulla via Srinagar has been approved and included in the Budget with funds to be provided outside the Railway's plan. The work would be started after funds have been made available by the Government. This project will take 7 years if the full requirement of funds is provided.

[Translation]

Wasteland in Forests

*186. SHRI MAHESH KUMAR M. KANODIA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of area in hectares as wasteland in forests, State-wise; and

(b) the measures taken by the Government to regenerate these areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) A Statement is enclosed.

(b) The various steps taken by the Government to regenerate the severely degraded forest area, with crown density less than 10% are :

(i) The concept of Joint Forest Management has been introduced in most of the States for development of forest by the way of people's participation.

(ii) Major schemes launched by the Government for development of forest are :

(a) Integrated Afforestation and Eco-development Project Scheme

(b) Area Oriented Fuelwood and Fodder Project Scheme.

(c) Scheme on Association of Schedule Tribe and Rural Poor in the Regeneration of Degraded Forest.

STATEMENT

State-wise details of forest area with less than 10% crown density as per the State of Forest Report, 1993

S.No.	State/UTs	Forest area (in ha) with less than 10% crown density
1.	Andhra Pradesh	12,17,000
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	22,300
3.	Assam	60,200
4.	Bihar	1,92,500
5.	Goa (including Daman and (Diu)	1,600
6.	Gujarat	2,42,700
7.	Haryana	12,200
8.	Himachal Pradesh	1,84,500
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	3,10,800
10.	Karnataka	4,63,700
11.	Kerala	9,300
12.	Madhya Pradesh	3,04,900
13.	Maharashtra	7,28,100
14.	Manipur	1,46,100
15.	Meghalaya	98,500
16.	Mizoram	1,15,600
17.	Nagaland	12,000
18.	Orissa	6,35,500
19.	Punjab	11,400
20.	Rajasthan	6,75,200
21.	Sikkim	43,700
22.	Tamil Nadu	2,81,800
23.	Tripura	13,800
24.	Uttar Pradesh	1,04,300
25.	West Bengal	4,800
26.	Andaman and Nicobar	400
27.	Chandigarh	-
28.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	1,100
29.	Delhi	300
30.	Lakshadweep	-
31.	Pondicherry	-
Total		58,94,300