

assessment, forest cover in the country is 19.27% of the geographical area.

6. Wildlife (Protection) Act was enacted in 1972 (amended 1991), to protect wild flora and fauna.

7. A network of 447 wildlife sanctuaries and 84 National Parks covering about 1,50,000 sq. km. has been developed for conservation of wild flora and fauna.

Pollution Caused by Leaded Petrol

*170. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE :
SHRI PRABHASH CHANDRA TIWARI :

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

(a) whether the leaded petrol is one of the main causes of vehicular pollution in the country;

(b) if so, whether the Government have conducted or propose to conduct any test regarding the pollution caused by the leaded petrol in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken by the Union Government to check the pollution caused by the leaded petrol?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI) : (a) Yes sir.

(b) and (c): The Central Pollution Control Board is carrying out a study on measurements of lead in ambient air. The study is being carried out with the assistance of the National Environmental Engineering Research Institute, Nagpur. Four metro cities, Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Calcutta, have been covered. The selection was based on the fact that the number of vehicles in these cities is higher than other cities. Lead levels in ambient air of Delhi have shown that levels of lead are showing a reducing trend.

(d) The Government in order to check pollution caused by leaded petrol introduced low leaded petrol (0.15 gm/l), as against the prevailing specification of 0.56 gm/l, in the four metro cities of Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Calcutta in June 1994, and in the entire country in December 1996. Unleaded petrol (0.013 gm/l) has been introduced in the four metro cities from April 1995. Unleaded petrol is also available in the Taj Trapezium and at some selected retail outlets on the radial routes

emerging out from the metros to important cities/tourist destinations. Unleaded petrol was proposed to be introduced at all the State/UT capitals and towns with population of 10 lakh and above from December, 1998 but has been advanced to August 1998. Further it is proposed to introduce unleaded petrol throughout the country from April, 2000.

[English]

Financial Crisis in Major Ports

*171. SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether some major ports have been facing financial crisis;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to improve their financial position, port-wise; and

(c) the details of the Central assistance sought by Paradeep Port to take up its development projects during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. M. THAMBI DURAI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Paradip Port has been financing all its development projects from their own internal resources except for one Externally Aided ADB Project for creating mechanised coal handling facilities. During the last 3 years, following amounts of loan has been disbursed to Paradip Port for this Project:—

(Rs. in crores)

Year	Amount released
1995-96	7.22
1996-97	16.39
1997-98	44.68

Pollution Control Measures

*172. SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN :
SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO :

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