

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) and (b). The rise in environmental pollution is due to growing population, urbanisation and industrialisation. Some stretches of major rivers are polluted due to discharge of untreated or partially treated sewage or industrial effluents. Instances of ground water pollution have also been reported in certain areas. Air pollution has shown a rising trend in the major cities mainly due to emissions from automobiles as compared to industrial or domestic sources.

(c) The measures taken and proposed by the Government to prevent and control pollution include the following :

- (i) A major vehicular survey was carried out by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) regarding the pollution caused by automobiles in the major cities and towns in the country. The findings of the survey have been used for the preparation of measures of control of vehicular pollution in the major cities.
- (ii) Effluent and emission standards for major sectors of air and water polluting industries have been notified. Industries have been directed to comply with the prescribed standards.
- (iii) Gross and mass emission standards for all categories of vehicles have been notified under the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989 and are being enforced by the Departments of Transport of the various States.
- (iv) Lead level in the petrol is planned to be reduced to a maximum of 0.15 grams per liter by December, 1996 in the petrol to be supplied throughout the country.
- (v) A major programme for introduction of unleaded petrol and catalytic converters fitted in the four-wheeler petrol vehicles is under implementation in a phased manner.
- (vi) Steps have been initiated to introduce compressed natural gas in petrol driven vehicles in some of the cities.
- (vii) A scheme for setting up common effluent treatment plants in clusters of small scale industrial units is under operation.
- (viii) The National River Action Plan has been formulated to clean up the polluted stretches of major rivers covering the municipalities of major cities and towns. The Ganga Action Plan in the second phase includes the Cleaning up of the River Yamuna. The Government of National Capital Territory of

Delhi have a major programme for augmentation of sewage treatment plants in Delhi.

- (ix) Custom and Excise Duty Exemption are provided to the industries for pollution control/monitoring equipment.
- (x) Emphasis has been given on control of pollution at source by way of adoption of clean technology.
- (xi) Formation of Waste Minimisation Circles (WMC) has been done in industries and promotion of practice of good house keeping and better work practices has been encouraged.
- (xii) Proposed major development activities falling in the specified 29 categories are required to take Environmental Clearance from the Ministry of Environment and Forests under the EIA notification, 1994.

Agricultural Schemes in Assam

1544 DR. PRABIN CHANDRA SARMA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of specific schemes for modernisation of agriculture in Assam to make the State self-sufficient in the production of foodgrains;

(b) the steps taken for timely supply of quality seeds and fertilizers to the State at reasonable rates;

(c) whether per capita consumption of fertilizers in Assam is much less as compared to the other States; and

(d) if so, the remedial measures being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) In order to assist the State Government of Assam in increasing the production and productivity of foodgrains, a Centrally Sponsored "Integrated Cereals Development Programme in Rice Based Cropping Systems Areas (ICDP-Rice)" is being implemented on 75:25 sharing basis between Central and State Govts. The programme components under the Scheme include organisation of field demonstrations and farmer's training for effective transfer of technology. The scheme also provides for incentives to the farmers for the supply of seeds of location-specific high yielding varieties and for identified improved farm implements as well as awards to Gram Panchayats for maximising the productivity, soil ameliorants etc.

(b) In order to make seeds available in time and at reasonable prices to farmers in Assam, the cost of

Transportation of seeds is subsidised to designated seed supplying agencies like National Seeds Corporation, State Farm Corporation of India and State Seeds Corporation by the Central Government under the scheme for Transport subsidy on Seeds. Central assistances on seed transportation upto Rs.40/- per quintal is also permissible to Assam for supply of seeds in identified remote areas from State Capital under the schemes for Integrated Seed Development.

According to the 'Fertilizer Statistics' 1994-95 brought out by the Fertilizers Association of India, consumption of fertilisers in Assam was 11 kg/ha, compared to an all-India average of 74 kg/ha.

At present, only urea fertiliser is under statutory price control and is supplied to Assam at a uniform price of Rs 3320 per

Metric Tonne. The concession ofn decontrolled fertilizers has also been increased with effect from 6-7-96 to make it available to the farmers at cheaper rates.

(c) & (d) The following measures have been taken to increase the per capita consumption of fertilisers in Assam :-

- (i) Implementation of scheme on Balanced and Integrated Use of Fertilizers.
- (ii) Implementation of the scheme on development of Fertilisers Use in Low Consumption and Rainfed Areas.
- (iii) Implementation of the Scheme on Development and Use of Bio-Fertilisers.

Prices of Fertilizers

1545 DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken any final decision for rationalising the fertiliser price structure.

(b) if so, whether the increase in prices is aimed at discouraging farmers from the indiscriminate use of chemicals.

(c) whether the Government are also considering to enhance the prices of certain chemicals.

(d) whether the new formula will aim at bringing down the per unit cost of NPK.

(e) whether the amount of Rs. 500 crore earmarked for fertiliser subsidy has crossed Rs. 760 crore, and

(f) if so, the main reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) and (b) Urea is the only fertilizer at present under statutory price control and is sold at a uniform rate of Rs. 3320

per tonne through-out the country. All phosphatic and potassic fertilizers have been decontrolled and the Government has been giving a concession on their sale to the farmers to encourage consumption.

(c) Department of Chemicals & Petro-chemicals have informed that presently the prices of Chemicals are not monitored and regulated by the Government.

(d) Hon'ble Member is perhaps referring to the scheme of Concessional sale of decontrolled fertilizers to the farmers.

The scheme is effective from Rabi season 1992-93. The rates of Concession under the scheme have been enhanced w.e.f. 6.7.1996 as under :-

Fertilizer	(Rate per tonne)
DAP (Indigenous)	Rs. 3000/-
DAP (Imported)	Rs. 1500/-
MOP	Rs. 1500/-
SSP	Rs. 500/-
Complexes	From Rs.1304 to 2633 per tonne depending upon their P&K contents.

The State have been asked to ensure that the benefit of the concession is fully passed on to the farmers.

(e) The provision of Rs. 500 crores for the financial year 1995-96 was fully utilised. However, the bills for that year are still being received and payments are made from the provisions made for the year 1996-97.

(f) It is because of increase in consumption of fertilizers covered under the scheme.

[Translation]

Manufacture of Railway Bogies

1546 PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the present manufacturing and installed capacity of coaches and wagon units in public and private sectors at present separately.

(b) the present requirement of the coaches and wagons in the country.

(c) whether the Government propose to manufacture railway bogies in the Ajmer Coach factory; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) In addition to two production units of Railways viz., ICF/Madras and RCF/Kapurthala, there are two units in Public Sector