(c) Does not arise.

Written Answers

(d) Operational and resources constraints.

# Group Insurance Scheme for Fishermen

1539. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether insurance coverage under Group Insurance Scheme for fishermen has been introduced:
  - (b) if so, the salient features of the scheme;
- (c) whether the Government of Kerala has made any request to enchance the insurance coverage; and
  - (d) if so, the response of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HASBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) and (b). A Centrally sponsored Scheme for providing free insurance cover to fishermen has been in operation since 1982-83. A fisherman is insured for a sum of Rs.25,000/- against dealth or permanent disbility and for a sum of Rs.12,500/- against partial disability.

- (c) The issue of enhancing the insurance cover was raised by the Government of Kerala and by some other State Governments at the 19th Meeting of the Central Board of Fisheries which was held at New Delhi on 18th October, 1994.
- (d) It has been tentatively decided to enhance the insurance cover to Rs 35,000/- in case of death and permanent disability and to Rs. 12,500/- in case of partial disability.

[Translation]

## **Bhopal Gas Tragedy**

1540. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state

- (a) the amount deposited by the Union Carbide in the Supreme Court for payment of compensation to the gas victims.
- (b) the amount out of the above given to the Welfare Commissioner Bhopal:
- (c) whether the amount lying with the Supreme Court includes interest amount too; and
- (d) whether the Welfare Commissioner had delayed the payment of compensation to the gas victims and if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SHEES RAM OLA): (a) to (d). US \$ 470 million which included payment of US \$ 45 million made in rupee equivalent amount was deposited by the Union Carbide. The entire

amount along with interest was released in favour of the Welfare Commissioner on 16.10.92 for payment of compensation. The amount is withdrawn and paid as compensation upto 31.05.96. Settlement of claims and payment of compensation is an on-going process.

[English]

#### Replacement of Bogies

- 1541. SHRI RAMESH CHENITHALA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:
- (a) whether the Government are aware that most of the trains in Kerala run with the old bogies; and
  - (b) if so, the action being taken to replace them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) passenger coaches have a useful economic life of about 285 years. At any time, therefore, passenger services, including those running in Kerala, will have coaches of mixed vintage. The coaches are, however, given regular maintenance attention to keep them in good fettle.

(b) Coaches are replaced on age-cum-condition basis.

#### Stoppage at New Coochbehar

- 1542. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state.
- (a) the number of requests received for providing a stoppage of New Delhi-Guwahati Rajdhani Express at New Coochbehar during the current year till date;
- (b) whether any action has been taken on these requests so far;
  - (c) if so, the details thereof; and
  - (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) Some requests have been received in this regard.

(b) to (d). These requests have been duly examined and the stoppage has not been found justified having regard to the importance of the Rajdhani Express.

#### **Pollution**

- 1543 SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state
- (a) whether depsite three Pollution control Acts, various kinds of pullution in rivers, cities, and underground water is increasing;
  - (b) if so, the main reasons therefor; and
- (c) the further effective steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

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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

- (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
  - (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 Sates
  - (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.

Written Answers

- (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 dategories are required to take Environmental Clearance from the Ministry of Environment and Forests under the EiA riotification, 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 modenisation 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 make seeds available in time and at reasonable proces to farmers in Assam, the cost of