

*[English]***Shortage of Pilots in IAF**

729. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is shortage of pilots in the Indian Air Force, with majority of vacancies in the combat wing;

(b) if so, whether there is similar shortage in the maintenance crew and engineers also; and

(c) if so, the steps Government propose to take to tackle the situation and ensure that there is no adverse effect on the combat preparedness of the IAF during any conflict?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The extent of shortages in technical branches is around 10% of the establishment.

(c) The short Service Commissions is operative in Flying and Technical branches to meet the shortages. Also sustained publicity and recruitment drive is on the attract the youth in the officer cadre in the IAF.

Literacy Movement

730. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE:

SHRI MADAN PATIL:

SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO:

SHRI A. SAMPATH:

SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHARI:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have announced a proposal to boost the literacy movement known as "each one (student), teach five";

(b) if so, the details of the proposal and follow-up action being taken for its implementation;

(c) whether the Government propose to extend this scheme to cover University students also; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKAI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Pollution in Metropolitan Cities

731. SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR:

SHRI SURESH PRABHU:

SHRI GANGA CHARAN RAJPUT:

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE:

SHRI JAISINH CHAUHAN:

SHRI DEVENDRA BAHADUR ROY:

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

(a) whether Government have set up any monitoring system to measure the pollution levels in various cities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the environment pollution particularly in metropolitan cities and major industrial towns is reaching the hazardous level;

(d) if so, whether Government propose to formulate an 'Action Plan' about it in consultation with the State Governments;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to check pollution?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) is monitoring the levels of major air pollutants under the National Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Programme, through a network of 290 monitoring stations covering 92 cities/towns in the country. The monitoring stations are located in three different areas, i.e. Residential (R), Commercial (C) and Industrial (I), in each city and ambient air quality is assessed in terms of concentration of Sulphur dioxide (SO₂), Nitrogen dioxide (NO_x) and Suspended Particulate Matter (SPM). Besides, 480 water quality monitoring stations have been set up in different parts of the country.

(c) The air and water quality monitoring data indicates that the pollution levels reach critical levels occasionally in certain areas of metropolitan cities and major towns in the country.

In order to assess the water pollution problems, surveys have also been carried out for status of water supply and concentration and management of municipal solid wastes in cities and towns. Water quality monitoring programmes are carried out by the concerned State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs).

(d) to (f) Out of 24 critically polluted areas identified in the country, action plans for 16 critically polluted areas have been prepared and are being implemented by CPCB through the SPCBs. In addition, the following steps have been taken by the Government to check environmental pollution in the country;

— The Government has formulated a comprehensive Policy Statement for Abatement for Pollution which envisages integration of environmental and economic