

[English]

Closure of Polluting Industries

677. SHRI I.D. SWAMI : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Supreme Court directed the Central Government on 28th August, 1996 to constitute an authority headed by a High Court judge within a month empowering it to order the closure of polluting industries, impose fines and order compensation.

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government on the directions of the Court?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) and (b) Yes. Sir. The Supreme Court in its judgement dated August 28, 1996 in Writ Petition No. 914 of 1991 - Vellore Citizens Welfare Forum versus Union of India and Others has directed that the Central Government shall constitute an authority under Section 3(3) of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and shall confer on the said authority all the powers necessary to deal with the situation created by the tanneries and other polluting industries in the State of Tamil Nadu. The Authority shall be headed by a retired judge of the High Court and it may have other members preferably with expertise in the field of pollution control and environment protection - to be appointed by the Central Government. The Central Government shall confer on the said authority the powers to issue directions under Sections 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and for taking measures with respect to the matters referred to in Clauses (v), (vi), (vii), (viii), (ix), (x) and (xii) of sub-Section (2) of Section 3. The Supreme Court had directed the Central Government to constitute the authority before September 30, 1996.

(c) In compliance of the Supreme Court order the Government has constituted the Loss of Ecology (Prevention and Payments of Compensation) Authority for the State of Tamil Nadu on September 30, 1996. The constitution of the Authority, as notified on October 12, 1996 is as under :

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| (i) Justice Shri P. Bhaskaran
(Retired Judge of the
Madras High Court) | - Chairperson |
| (ii) The Secretary, Government
to Tamil Nadu, Department
of Environment | - Member |
| (iii) The Member Secretary
Central Pollution Control
Board | - Member |
| (iv) Dr. B.B. Sundaresan
(Former Vice-Chancellor,
University of Madras) | - Member
Secretary |

Saving-cum-Relief Scheme

678. SHRI V.M. SUDHEERAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have taken a final decision to continue the Centrally Sponsored Saving-cum-Relief Scheme to remove the difficulties experienced by the marine fishermen; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) No, Sir. Ministry of Agriculture has recommended continuation and it is pending for finalisation.

(b) Does not arise

Development of Horticulture

679. SHRI NARAYAN ATHAWALAY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are working out a special action plan for the Horticulture development during the Ninth Five Year Plan in view of the huge export potential of Horticulture produce; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the outlays proposed for the purpose under the Central Project Schemes in each State particularly in Maharashtra and Goa?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Statewise and Schemewise outlays are finalised after the plan outlays are communicated by the Planning Commission.

[Translation]

Foreign Nationals in India

680. SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of foreign nationals staying in India without valid passport; and

(b) the action taken against them alongwith the period of their stay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) and (b). Powers of the Central Government under the Passport (Entry into India) Act, 1920, Registration of Foreigners Act, 1939 and the Foreigners Act, 1946 have been entrusted to the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations with their prior consultation under Articles 258/239 of the Constitution. No data regarding