

- (v) To review the system of equated freight and recommend measures to rationalise it, including minimisation of cross country movement to reduce lead.
- (vi) To suggest measures to improve the cohesiveness of the policies in respect of the controlled and decontrolled segments of the fertilizer industry, especially the policies impinging on the availability of fertilizers and the relative pricing of controlled and decontrolled fertilizers with a view to achieving an agronomically desirable NPK consumption ratio, while keeping the fertilizer subsidy at a reasonable level.
- (vii) Any other item that may be considered appropriate.

(d) and (e) The High Power Committee has been constituted to undertake an indepth study of the issues delineated in its terms of reference.

(f) The Committee is required to submit its recommendations within a period of six months.

Pollution by Mining

546. SHRI SATYAJITSINH DULIPSINH GAEKWAD :
SHRI SUKH LAL KUSHWAHA :

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

(a) the names of the places where the mining work including diamond mining is causing environmental pollution;

(b) the level of pollution at these places separately; and

(c) the efforts being made and the funds being spent to abate the pollution ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) The mining work relates in general to coal, zinc, lead copper, iron, bauxite, granite and slate. There are 115 coal mines in the country predominantly located in the States of Bihar, West Bengal, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh. The zinc and lead mines are located in the States of Rajasthan, Orissa, Andhra Pradesh and Bihar. The copper mines are located in the States of Rajasthan and Bihar. The iron ore mines are located in Karnataka, Goa, Bihar and Orissa. The bauxite mines are located in Maharashtra, Bihar and Orissa. Granite mines are located in Andhra Pradesh and Orissa. The slate mines are located in Madhya Pradesh. The diamond mine is located at Panna in Madhya Pradesh.

(b) The mining activities result in water as well as air pollution the water pollution is caused mainly due to the following factors :

- Discharge of mining water containing suspended coal and rock dust; and
- acid mine drainage water

The mining activities cause air pollution due to emission of dust produced during various mining and allied activities. Opencast mining contributes more dust to the atmosphere than the underground mining.

(c) The steps taken to abate pollution include the following.

- installation of cyclone and wet scrubber at appropriate dust generating location;
- water spray on feeder and haul roads;
- treatment of acid drain discharge wherever necessary.
- The Indian Industry has also been taking proactive steps to manage environmental aspects arising out of mining activities. So far, 8 mines have already been certified to ISO-14001. Two of them are bauxite mines and the remaining 6 are iron ore mines.

As per the impact assessment notification of January, 1994 issued under the Environment (Protection) Act, the mining projects (major minerals with leases more than 5 hectares) are required an environmental clearance from the Ministry and while granting such clearance, environmental management plans so as to reflect the cost of pollution abatement and environment protection in the project cost

Zinc Paucity

547. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Zinc paucity may hit wheat crop" appearing in the 'Economic Times', dated February 4, 1997;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) the details of action taken/proposed to be taken in this regard;

(d) whether the Government have received any representation from the Micronutrient Manufacturers Association of India (MMAI); and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. Zinc ash/skimming are the raw material for