

[English]

**Water Pollution**

1000. SHRI AJIT JOGI:  
SHRI SURENDRAN CHENGARA:

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

(a) whether the Government have failed badly to control water pollution;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the efforts made to enforce the admissible limits fixed for effluent and emission under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Emission and effluent standards prescribed by the Government under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 are enforced by concerned State Pollution Control Boards and Pollution Control Committees through their consent mechanism. Periodic monitoring of the pollution control facilities is undertaken for all polluting industries. Industries in the 17 categories of Highly Polluting Industries have been persuaded to install the requisite pollution control systems. Out of a total of 1551 such industries, only 155 industries do not have the necessary pollution control facilities. Legal action has been taken against all defaulting units, under the Environment (Protection) Act. For small scale units, a scheme for providing Common Effluent Treatment Plant have been established. A network of water and air quality monitoring stations has also been established in different parts of the country. A National River Action Plan has been launched to check water pollution in river stretches.

**Optical Fibre Cables**

1001. SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMED SAYEED: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Telecom Department propose to link Jammu, Srinagar, Kargil, Leh, Manali and *vice-versa* through optical fibre cables system in view of the erratic satellite telecom system functioning at present;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the progress made so far in this regard;

(c) the time by which the said work are likely to be completed; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) to (c) The plans of Department of Telecommunications for linking these stations are as follows:

(i) *Jammu-Srinagar (Optical Fibre Cable):*

Jammu-Udhampur section has already been commissioned. Work is in progress in Udhampur-Srinagar route and it likely to be completed by March, 2001.

(ii) *Srinagar-Kargil-Leh (Optical Fibre Cable):*

A joint project between Department of Telecommunications and Army is under consideration and the same is likely to be commissioned within two years after the same is approved by both the Ministries.

(iii) Manali is already connected on optical fibre via Kullu.

(iv) To improve the present satellite service working at Jammu, Srinagar, Kargil and Leh IDR facility using digital equipment have been planned.

(d) In view of reply to (a), (b) & (c) above, question does not arise.

**Subsidy on Power**

1002. SHRI KAMAL NATH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to reduce the subsidy on power being supplied to domestic and agricultural consumers in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER, MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) and (b) The tariff for various