

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS[*Translation*]**Enhancement of Allocation for Public Health Schemes**

*393. SHRI NIRMAL KHATTRI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Health and Family Welfare Council has suggested doubling of expenditure on schemes for public health in the country; and

(b) if so, the action proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES AND MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA):

(a) The Central Council of Health and Family Welfare (CCHFW) during its Conference held in February, 1989 recommended that during the 8th Plan the allocation for Health and Family Welfare sector should be not less than 7% of the total Plan allocation.

(b) The recommendations of CCHFW have been sent to the Planning Commission and the State Governments.

Committee to Check Denudation of Forests

*395. SHRI S.M. GURADDI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether any team has been set up to check the denudation of forests in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the target set for afforestation during the Seventh Plan period is likely

to be achieved;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken to achieve the target?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI): (a) and (b). No team has been set up to check the denudation of forests in the country.

(c) The target of 10 million ha. for total afforestation (including distribution of seedlings) as set to the Seventh Plan period is likely to be achieved.

(d) and (e). Do not arise.

Legislation Regarding Disposal of Solid and Nuclear Wastes

*399. SHRI K.P. UNNIKRIISHNAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any legislation governing the disposal of solid wastes, including nuclear wastes in the country; if so, the details thereof;

(b) if not, whether Government propose to introduce legislation in the regard; and

(c) whether the State Governments and interested organisations have been consulted on the parameters of this legislation?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI): (a) to (c). There is no single legislation which governs the disposal of solid wastes, including the nuclear wastes, in the country. There are several enactments. The major one and the relevant provisions include the following:

(i) Regarding nuclear wastes, section 17 of the Atomic Energy Act, 1962 enables

the Central Government to regulate safe disposal. The Government have notified the Atomic Energy (Safe Disposal of Radioactive Wastes) Rules, 1987.

(ii) The definition of 'pollution' in the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollutions) Act, 1974 covers pollution of water through solid wastes and under section 16(2) of the Act, the Central Board and under section 17(2) of the Act, the State Boards are required to plan and cause to be executed a programme for the prevention, control and abatement of water pollution.

(iii) The definition of "air pollutant" in the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 covers solid substances present in the atmosphere which may be, or tend to be injurious to human beings or other living creatures or plants or property or environment. Under section 16(2) of the Act, the Central Board and under section 17(2) of the Act, the State Boards are required to plan and cause to be executed a programme for the prevention and control and abatement of air pollution.

(iv) The definition of "environment pollutant" in the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 covers solid wastes which may be, or tend to be injurious to environment. Section 3 of the Act enables the Central Government to take measures to plan and execute a nation-wide programme for the prevention, control and abatement of environmental pollution.

(v) Section 12 of the Factories Act, 1948 provides for making effective arrangements in every factory for the treatment of wastes and effluents due to the manufacturing process carried on therein, so as to render them innocuous and for their disposal.

The existing provisions are adequate to govern the disposal of solid wastes.

Sale of Land by Textile Mills in Bombay

*403. PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state: (a) whether a serious controversy has arisen over the question of sale of lands belonging to the textile mills in Bombay which are being closed down;

(b) if so, whether Government have finally decided about its attitude towards this controversy regarding the sale of land by textile mills; and

(c) whether any amicable solution of the issue has been found out?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES AND MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Government have permitted National Textile Corporation mills located all over the country to sell the land, surplus to its requirements, in accordance with the procedure laid down by the Government. The procedure includes the stipulation that all sales to parties other than the Government Departments and the Public Sector Undertakings, require the prior approval of the Government.

Pre-Requisites for setting up New Sugar Mills

*404. SHRI HUSSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether conditions for sanctioning of a new sugar factory are uniform for all the States;

(b) if not, what are the variations, State-wise;

(c) whether the recommendation of the