

Insanitation and Pollution in the Country

*219. SHRI M. V. CHANDRA SHEKHARA MURTHY: Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the fast pace of urbanisation in India is creating a formidable problem of insanitation and pollution of the aquatic environments in the country;

(b) if so, whether the experts on prevention of water pollution have reached the conclusion that no significant improvement of the country's aquatic environments is possible so long as the cities continue to pour their waste water untreated in the natural water course;

(c) if so, whether sewerage service and the facility for treating industrial effluents and waste water have not kept pace with urbanisation which has resulted in critical insanitary conditions in a large number of cities; and

(d) if so, the steps which Government have taken or propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI P. C. SETHI): (a) to (c). Yes, Sir.

(d) The Government of India have enacted the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 with a view to preventing and controlling water pollution and maintaining and restoring the wholesomeness of water in the country. Under the provisions of the Act, the Central Government has established the Central Board for the prevention and Control of Water Pollution to function as an apex body at the national level as well as the State Board in respect of Union Territories. Similarly the various State Governments have established State Boards for the Prevention and Control of Water Pollution.

Provision of arrangements for collection, treatment and disposal of wastes is the responsibility of the State Governments and the local bodies and they have to take necessary action in this behalf.

Tuna Fishing

*220 SHRI K. A. RAJAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have investigated the possibility of exploiting the Tuna resources of the Indian Ocean;

(b) whether any attempt has been made by Indian interests for systematic fishing of Tuna; and

(c) whether Government have sought any foreign aid for Tuna fishing?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION (SHRI BIRENDRA SINGH RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

Utilization Report on Aid received for 'Food for Work' Programme in states

*221. SHRI P. J. KURIEN: Will the Minister of RURAL RECONSTRUCTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received utilisation reports from the State Governments for the assistance received towards the 'Food for Work' Programme during 1979-80;

(b) if so, the details in respect of the public assets created through the 'Food for Work' Programme by various States during 1979-80;

(c) whether there are any State Government which have not sent the utilisation reports so far; if so, which are they; and