

up an Advisory Committee on 24th December, 1990 to examine the desirability and feasibility of setting up a Free Port in the country and to recommend a suitable location therefor.

Pollution of Ground Water in Rajasthan

1480. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government are aware of the large scale pollution of ground water in Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the details of the extent of pollution according to various studies conducted on ground water pollution in Rajasthan; and

(c) the various measures adopted to purify the water and to stop further pollution of ground water in that State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) and (b). According to a study conducted by the national Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI), the well water in the two villages in the Bichhri area in Udaipur district is dark brown in colour. The intensity varying with the distance of the wells from the polluting factories. According to a study funded by the Ministry of Environment and Forests and carried out by the Centre for Science and Environment, highly soluble

and toxic effluents have entered the Bichhri aquifer and rendered it entirely unfit for all uses. Studies conducted by the Central Pollution Control Board and Rajasthan Pollution Control Board have indicated that effluent from dyeing units have polluted the ground water in Jetpur, Pali and Balotra.

(c) The units in the Bichhri area manufacturing H-acid have been closed down and legal action has been initiated in the Supreme Court to provide compensation to the affected villages. Units in Jetpur, Pali and Balotra have been directed to put up effluent treatment plants in a time bound programme. The ground water would improve gradually through biological oxidation and dilution.

Soviet Credit for Projects in India

1481. SHRI PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Soviet Government have offered credits for Soviet Projects in India on soft terms during the last three years; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVJAY SINGH): (a) and (b). Agreement for the following Soviet Government credits for projects in India were entered into during the calendar years 1988, 1989 and 1990.

<i>Date of Agreement</i>	<i>Amount of credit</i>	<i>Name of Project</i>
1	2	3
(i) 20.11.88	Rouble 400 million (Rs. 911.42 crore)	Vindhyachal Thermal Power Project Stage II (2x500 MW)
(ii) 20.11.88	Rouble 3,200 million (Rs. 7291.36 crore)	Nuclear Power Project (2x1000 MW at Kudankulam)
(iii) 12.09.89	Rouble 220 million (Rs. 501.28 crore)	Vindhyachal-Bina-Nagda Power Transmission System Project
(iv) 12.9.89	Rouble 770 million (Rs. 1754.43 crore)	Mangalore (2x210 MW) (Kayamkulam (2x210 MW) and Maithon (4x210 MW) Theramal Power Projects

Rate of exchange Rouble 1 = Rs. 22.7855)