

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The steps taken by the Government for prevention and control of pollution include the following:-

- Effluent and emission standards have been notified under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 to check air, water and noise pollution.
- industries have been directed to install necessary pollution control equipment and action is taken against the defaulting units.
- A scheme under the World Bank for setting up Common Effluent Treatment Plants (CETPs) in clusters of small scale industrial units has been implemented in several parts of the country.
- Environment Impact Assessment Notification, 1994 is in force governing environmental appraisal of 29 specified categories of developmental projects.
- Environmental Guidelines have been evolved for siting of industries.
- National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) has been launched to check water pollution in the major rivers of the country.
- Emission standards for vehicles have been notified under the Motor Vehicles Act. Vehicular fuel quality has also been upgraded.
- Ambient noise standards in respect of industrial, commercial, residential areas and silence zone have been notified under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.
- An Environment Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority has been set up for the National Capital Region for protecting and improving the environment.
- All the Hot Mix Plants have been closed down in Delhi.
- A number of hazardous industries have been closed down in Delhi.
- Environment Action Plan for Mumbai has been prepared and is being implemented by the State Government of Maharashtra.

New norms for environmental pollution

428. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the new norms for environmental pollution have been drafted and the same contain too stringent rules which would be unacceptable to the operators; and

(b) what are Government's plans in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The norms for control of environmental pollution are prescribed by the Government keeping in view the

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technology available, likely health implications, adoptability in industries under Indian conditions etc. These standards are reviewed periodically in consultation with experts, concerned organisations and industry representatives.

Estimated population of Elephant and Deer

429. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any estimate of the elephant and deer population in the country;

(b) if so, the State-wise details thereof, according to last estimate; and

(c) the various measures adopted by Government to stop poaching of deer, elephant and other rare species?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) and (b) Estimation of elephant population in the country is made on a regular basis. The state-wise details are given in statement (see below). Estimation of the population of all the deer species on scientific basis is not done. The population of Sangai (Manipur Deer) is 147.

(c) The measures taken to stop the poaching of deer, elephant and other rare species of wild animals include:

1. Hunting of wild animals included in Schedule I to IV of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 has been banned by the law.

2. Special projects for protection and conservation of tiger, elephant and rhinos and their habitat are being implemented.

3. Raids are being carried out by the wildlife authorities, whenever information of illegal trade in wild animals reaches them.

4. International trade in endangered species of animals and articles made thereof is regulated under the provisions of the Convention of International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

5. Regional and sub-regional offices of wildlife preservation have been set up mostly at the main export centres of the country to prevent smuggling of wildlife products.

6. Interdepartmental co-ordination has been enhanced with other enforcement organisation like police, BSF, customs, ITBP, coast guard etc. Training programme on wildlife enforcement and implementation is also conducted.

7. Staff in national parks and sanctuaries are being provided modern arms, wireless equipments and communication facilities to check poaching in the national parks and sanctuaries.

8. Analogous to the Centre, the states have also been asked to set up co-ordination Committee of all enforcement agencies so that there is effective co-operation to check poaching and to stop illegal trade.