

Degradation of Keoladeo Bird Sanctuary

999. SHRI PRAFULL GORADIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Keoladeo bird sanctuary at Bharatpur is undergoing gradual degradation on account of the pressure of population in the surrounding areas; and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken by Government to protect hundreds of species of birds and plants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) and (b) As reported by the State Government, no such degradation, on account of the pressure of population in the surrounding areas is seen in Keoladeo National Park, Bharatpur. The steps taken to protect plants and birds in the Keoladeo National Park are as follows:—

(i) Sufficient quantity of the water for the park is obtained from the State Irrigation Department every year.

(ii) Stone wall has been constructed around the Park to prevent encroachments and the illegal grazing.

(iii) Check posts equipped with wireless sets have been established in the Park.

(iv) Regular patrolling by Security guards is also done.

Lead Pollution

1000. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the study conducted by the George Foundation of Bangalore under Project Lead Free programme in Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Bangalore, Calcutta, Hyderabad and Vellore, has revealed that 26% of population, including 34% of children less than 12 years, had more than 10 Microgrammes per Decilitre (MG/DC) of lead in their blood;

(b) Whether it is a fact that the main source of lead pollution in India is petrol; and

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(c) if so, what special measures are being taken by Government to protect the people from the alarming condition of lead poisoning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) Yes, Sir. However, the George Foundation did not study truly random samples of the population for determining blood lead levels. The Foundation only attempted to select testing sites that might reflect the range of lead exposure present in Indian cities.

(b) Leaded petrol is one of the main sources of lead pollution in India.

(c) Measures taken by Government to control lead pollution include:

1. Low leaded petrol (0.15 g/l lead) was introduced in June 1994 in four metro cities and in the entire country from 1st January 1997.

2. Unleaded petrol (0.013 g/l lead) was introduced in four metro cities on 1st April 1995 and in capitals of States/Union Territories and other major cities on 1st September 1998.

3. Ban on leaded fuel has been made in the National Capital Territory of Delhi since 1st September, 1998 and in the National Capital region since 1st January 1999.

4. A lead phase out programme in petrol is under implementation in the country. According to this programme unleaded petrol will be introduced in the entire country from 1st February 2000.

Environmental Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority for NCR

1001. SHRI O.P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Environmental Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority (EPA) was set up for National Capital Region some time in the past;

(b) if so, with what aims and objectives and how many of those have been achieved;

(c) the reasons for not achieving the remaining aims and objectives;

(d) whether Supreme Court had directed construction of 15 common effluent treatment plants in Delhi, for treating the industrial waste; and