

- (xiv) Noise limits have been prescribed under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 for automobiles and domestic appliances at the manufacturing stage and are being monitored accordingly.
- (xv) Electrostatic precipitators have been installed in three thermal power plants in Delhi, at Indraprastha, Rajghat and Badarpur to reduce the release of Suspended Particulate Matter (SPM) into the atmosphere. Sulphur dioxide and oxides of nitrogen are emitted through stacks of specified height to facilitate wider dispersal so that the ground level concentrations of these gaseous pollutants are kept controlled. Stack monitoring is done on a regular basis.

(c) The Action Plan for Delhi envisages participation of NGOs for control of pollution in Delhi. CPCB has enlisted the NGOs for the abatement of pollution. CPCB officials train them to analyse various parameters to check pollution. The NGOs are also provided published material at concessional rates. In addition, the Transport Department has launched public awareness campaign in Delhi to educate people about the statutory punitive provisions related to vehicular pollution, health hazards, and on the maintenance measures for control of pollution from vehicles.

Ratification of amendment to the Basel Ban

1997. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India, at the 4th Conference on trans-boundary movement of hazardous waste, held at Kuching, Malaysia, had indicated its plan to ratify the historic 1995 amendment to the "Basel ban" pending adoption of the list of hazardous wastes prepared by the technical working group;

(b) if so, whether the Organisation for Economic Cooperation of Developed Countries has

been trying to scuttle or delay the ban; and

(c) the effective steps being taken to effectively prevent the exports of such wastes to India, indicating the actual exports of such wastes into India from various countries during 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) and (b) In the address delivered by India at the Fourth Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal held at Kuching, Malaysia from February 23-27, 1998, it was indicated that India is taking steps to ratify the amendments to the Basel Convention. The proposal to amend the Basel Convention to include the list of Wastes - List 'A' and List 'B' prepared by the Technical Working Group as Annex VIII and IX to the Convention, which defines hazardous wastes, was jointly presented by the European Union and Chile to the fourth Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention. Many European countries are part of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation of Developed Countries.

(c) As per rule 11 of the Hazardous Wastes (Management & Handling) Rules, 1989, imports of hazardous wastes from any country to India is not permitted for dumping and disposal. However, imports of such wastes may be allowed for processing or reuse as raw material after examining each case on merit. From April, 1995, import of hazardous wastes has been restricted to actual users with an import licence. *Vide* order dated 5.5.1997, the Supreme Court of India in a public interest litigation Writ Petition No. 657/95 - Research Foundation for Science, Technology and Ecology versus Union of India and Others ordered that no authorization/permission should be given by any authority for the import which have already been banned by the Central Government or by any order made by any Court or any authority. Seven permissions for imports of hazardous wastes have been granted so far from 1989 till 1996. During 1998 two importers have been granted permission for negotiations with the exporters.