

(b) The Tata Energy Research Institute (TER) and the Indira Gandhi Institute for Development Research (IGIDR) have carried out indoor air pollution studies. No conclusive evidence on mortality and morbidity could be drawn.

(c) The steps taken to control pollution including indoor pollution, are as follows:

- (i) The Government have formulated a comprehensive Policy Statement for Abatement of Pollution which envisages integration of environmental and economic aspects of development planning, lays stress on preventive aspects of pollution, promotion of cleaner technologies to reduce pollution and health related aspects;
- (ii) Emissions and ambient air quality standards have been notified under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.
- (iii) Fiscal incentives are provided for installation of pollution control equipment and also for the shifting of industries from congested areas.
- (iv) The Government promotes use of smokeless chullahs and use of non-conventional sources of energy.
- (v) An assistance centre for increasing public awareness has been created in the Central Pollution Control Board to provide information and assistance on pollution control and other related matters to the general public and non-governmental organisations.

#### **Sal borer insect**

2628. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news-item published in the Indian Express, New Delhi edition, dated 27th April, 1998 captioned "Sal borer insect has a new home as M.P. Government fells and forgets diseased trees" threatening another epidemic;

(b) whether the presence of the sal borer was first noticed in 1995 in the sal forests of Mandla district and the State Government claims to have brought it to the notice of the Union Government seeking guidelines in the same year; and

(c) if so, what remedial steps Central Government have so far taken and how much money it has spent from 1995 there on till date (year-wise) and with what results?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABULAL MARANDI):

(a) Yes Sir,

(b) Yes, Sir. In 1995 the Madhya Pradesh Government first noticed the attack of Sal borer in the Sal forests of Mandla and adjoining districts. The matter was referred by them to the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE) Dehradun for guidance. ICFRE advised to conduct 'Trap tree operation' during the months of monsoon to check the beetle population and recommended removal of affected trees.

(c) The Government of India, had set up a task force to study the problems, extent of damage and suggest remedial measures. A Steering committee under the Chairmanship of DG, ICFRE was set up to suggest long term measures to check sal borer attack. The Government of India had advised the Madhya Pradesh Government to undertake 'Trap tree operation' and felling of totally dead trees. The Supreme Court however, in March 1998 directed felling of trees falling only in category 1, 2 and 6 i.e. totally dead trees and stumps of already felled trees. Hon'ble Supreme Court have also set up a committee under the Chairmanship of Director, Tropical Forest Research Institute, Jabalpur to supervise marking of trees for felling. As the Control operations of Sal Borer are being conducted by Madhya Pradesh Government the cost thereof is also borne by them.