

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABULAL MARANDI): (a) Yes, Sir. The pollution control plants of the Khetri Copper Complex are now working satisfactorily.

(b) The Khetri Copper Complex has so far spent an amount of about Rs. 70 crores for installation of pollution control equipment.

(c) and (d) A team from the Central Pollution Control Board visited the plant on 1.3.1994 to assess the pollution problems in the area. The team made certain recommendations regarding the pollution control measures. A notice under Section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 was also served to the company to comply with the environmental standards within a stipulated time period. Subsequently, the company has taken the necessary pollution control measures, as recommended by the team and are now complying with the prescribed standards.

**Proposals for Controlling Forest Related Offices between India and Nepal**

1840. DR. RANBIR SINGH:  
SHRI RAJNATH SINGH  
'SURYA'  
SHRI RAM NATH  
KOVIND:

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

(a) whether the proposals to launch Trans-Boundary Construction Board and Indo-Nepal Border Development Programme submitted by the Uttar Pradesh Government for controlling the forest related offices between India and Nepal have been considered;

(b) if so, the status thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) No proposals to launch Trans-Boundary Construction Board and

Indo-Nepal Board Development Programme have been submitted to this Ministry by Government of Uttar Pradesh.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

**Forest Cover in the Country**

1841. DR. MOHAN BABU:

SHRI SANJAY DALMIA:

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

(a) the extent of forests in the country, State-wise;

(b) the reasons for reduction in the forest cover; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to increase the land under forest cover?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABULAL MARANDI): (a) The information is contained in the Statement (*See below*).

(b) The main reasons for reduction of forest cover in the country are increasing demand of forest produce for increasing human and cattle population, shifting cultivation, fire, grazing, illicit cutting, encroachment and lack of required investments in the forestry sector.

(c) Ministry has requested the concerned State/UT Governments to take serious note of the depletion of forest cover and to make an indepth analysis of the factors contributing to the depletion of forest cover, to evolve effective strategy and action programme for arresting the trend so as to increase the forest cover in the coming years. Ministry has also requested Planning Commission and all State/UT Governments for increasing the allocation for forestry sector. Major steps taken for proper preservation of forests and forest wealth are:

(i) Afforestation programme are undertaken by State/UT Governments from their own resources as well as with financial assistance from Government of India;