

(c) the consensus reached in this regard in the General Assembly indicating the stand taken by industrialized countries?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) The Special Session of UN General Assembly to review the progress in the implementation of Agenda 21 was held in New York during June 23-27, 1997. After protracted negotiations, the Special Session adopted a statement of commitment and a Programme for further implementation of Agenda 21.

(b) India expressed concern at the disappointing lack of fulfillment of international commitments voluntarily undertaken by industrialized countries at the 1992 Rio Earth Summit. India made a strong plea for fulfilment of time bound commitments for transfer of environmentally sound technologies and the provision of new and additional financial resources by the industrialized countries to the developing countries. This was accepted.

(c) The final document adopted at the Special Session of UN General Assembly calls for urgent fulfilment of all the commitments made at the 1992 Rio Earth Summit concerning concrete measures for the Transfer of environmentally sound technologies and the provision of new and additional financial resources from industrialized countries to developing countries that are both adequate and predictable.

Anti pollution drives

1146. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR

SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:

SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that despite all the anti-pollution drives carried out by

Delhi Traffic Police and anti-pollution wings in respect of vehicles playing in Delhi, trucks, buses including DTC buses and other vehicles continue to blow out clouds of thick blacksmoke on Delhi roads;

(b) if so, what was the extent of poisonous gases and suspended particulate matter in air on various congested roads and junctions in peak hours in Delhi at the end of the last drive and the comparative figures during corresponding last year; and

(c) what further effective steps are being taken to contain pollution on road within acceptable limits and norms?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) No, Sir. the anti-pollution drives and other enforcement measures of the Transport Department of the Government of NCT of Delhi have been effective in reducing the number of visibly polluting vehicles on Delhi roads and keeping the pollution under control

(b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) A number of Measures have been undertaken to contain vehicular pollution. These include:

(i) Under the "Pollution under control" (PUC) scheme of the Transport Department, Delhi, the number of private petrol pumps' work shops and diesel checking centres authorised to provide facilities has been increased to 298 for petrol vehicles and to 31 for diesel vehicles. The Transport Department, Delhi has intensified its pollution control drive through its static and mobile teams to enforce the standards stipulated for on-road vehicles.

During the enforcement drive carried out in March-April 1997, a total of 10.2 lakh vehicles were checked for pollution and PUC certificates issued. A drive against

overloading of goods vehicles was also conducted from February, March and May, 1997 and 1874 vehicles were prosecuted/off-loaded.

(ii) All new vehicles are checked for pollution emission levels at the time of registration and only vehicles conforming to the prescribed standards are registered.

(iii) Regular inspection on maintenance is conducted on the bus fleet under the Delhi Transport Corporation and buses found defaulting are sent to the concerned depots for corrective action, a Pollution Control Cell has been established in the Delhi Transport Corporation. This cell is equipped with instruments for measuring smoke levels. However, a number of buses due to overloading and over-age tend to emit smoke under such conditions.

(iv) Intensive awareness campaigns have been launched by Transport Departments of cities such as Delhi, to educate people about the statutory punitive provisions related to vehicular pollution, health hazards and measures for keeping the emission levels low.

(v) The Association of Indian Automobile manufacturers have been conducting free pollution checking facilities and organised a number of free pollution checking camps.

(vi) A network of ambient air quality monitoring stations has been set up to monitor the major air quality parameters to understand their trends and take appropriate measures.

(vii) Unleaded petrol has been introduced in four metros of Delhi, Mumbai, Calcutta and Chennai since 1.4.1995.

(viii) Stricter emission norms for vehicles at the manufacturing stage are to be introduced from 1.4.2000 for all categories of petrol and diesel vehicles.

(ix) The Government has drawn up a major programme for improvement of the quality of the automotive fuels including introduction of low-sulphur diesel.

Adivasis of Melghat Forest Area

1147. DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) [he total Forest Cover of the Melghat Forest Areas in the Amravati district of Maharashtra;

(b) out of this the area under the reserved forest;

(c) how many villages and habitations are there in this forest and out of this how many are in the reserved areas;

(d) how many Adivasi persons live in this area and how many are non-Adivasis;

(e) whether the Department is aware about the deaths of thousands of children due to malnourishment which have taken place during the last few years in this forest; and

(f) what has this Department done to help the forest dwellers prevent the juvenile deaths?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) to (f) Information is being collected and would be placed on the Table of the House.

कुल्लू में ग्रेट नेशनल हिमालय पार्क

1148. श्री महेश्वर सिंह: क्या पर्यावरण और वन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) कुल्लू जिले में प्रस्तावित ग्रेट नेशनल हिमालय पार्क के निर्माण हेतु कुल कितनी भूमि का अधिग्रहण किया गया है;

(ख) इस परियोजना से कितने परिवार प्रभावित हुये;