

Pollution in Ahmedabad

*100. SHRI AHMED MOHMED-BHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government's attention has been drawn to the news item published in the Indian Express dated 31st October, 1993 under the heading 'Traffic Cops in Ahmedabad run high risk of Cancer';

(b) if so, whether according to the report, four out of every five traffic policemen in Ahmedabad are exposed to high risk of cancer and three out of every five suffered from respiratory problems;

(c) if so, whether the Consumer Education Research Centre also carried out a survey which concluded that more than 50 per cent of vehicles on Ahmedabad city roads caused pollution;

(d) whether a Central Road Research Institute document points out that these exposed to high pollution suffer from throat, skin and respiratory problems; and

(e) if so, whether any concrete steps in this regard are worked out by Government for remedial measures in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The document of the Central Road Research institute entitle "Effect of environmental pollution due to road traffic on health of Delhi Traffic Policemen" mentions that high air pollution levels may lead to throat and respiratory problems.

(e) Yes, Sir. The steps taken by the Government to control vehicular pollution include the following:

(i) Emission norms for both petrol and diesel driven vehicles have been notified under the Motor Vehicles Rules 1989 and these are under implementation from 1990.

(ii) The Ministry of Surface Transport have advised the various State Transport Directorates to enforce these standards.

(iii) Lead content in petrol have already been brought down to a national average of 0.18 gm/litre. Efforts are being made to reduce their levels even further.

(iv) Public awareness campaigns have been launched on various measures to prevent and control pollution from vehicles.

(v) More stringent norms for vehicular emissions have been notified under the Central Motor Vehicles Rules in September 1993 which would come into effect from 1996.

(vi) Automobile manufacturers have been asked to develop and improve their technology to meet the more stringent standards for emissions from vehicles.

(vii) City planners are advised to incorporate in their plans the long-term requirements of city transportation.

Ganga Action Plan

621. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Ganga Action Plan launched in the year 1986 still faces problems which are likely to delay in realization of its targets;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof

(c) whether it is also a fact that the rivers continues to be polluted by the flow of industrial and city waste into the river and

(d) if so, the details of steps being taken to check this and streamline its development process?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) Most of the schemes taken up under the Ganga Action Plan Phase-I are likely to be completed by 1993-94. The