

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) According to State of Forest Report 1993, the total recorded forest area of the country is 7,70,078 sq. km, the degraded forest with crown density 10 percent to 40 percent is 2,50,275 sq. km and the scrub forest (crown density less than 10 percent) is 58,943 sq. km. According to one estimate extent of total wasteland in the country is 12,95,800 sq. km.

(c) The tentative target for afforestation during the year 1994-95 is ;

(i) Area to be afforested 12,47,260 ha.

(ii) Seedling to be distributed 14,170 Lacs.

Dereservation of Sariska National Park

5599. SHRI RAM NATH KOVIND : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have succumbed to the pressure of Rajasthan mining lobby and dereserved a part of Sariska National Park;

(b) if so, whether Government felt it necessary to dereserve part of the Sariska National Park;

(c) how much hectare area has been dereserved; and

(d) what benefits Government derives out of this dereservation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Monitoring Pollution

5600. SHRI GUFRAN AZAM : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem which appeared in Pioneer dated 13th April, 1994 under the caption "Ministry set up 290 stations to monitor pollution";

(b) if so, the details of locations and specific areas of operation for monitoring the pollution ;

(c) whether it is a fact that Government are unable to check the menace due to inaction of its own agencies; and

(d) if so, the facts and details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) Yes, Sir. 290 stations have been sanctioned to monitor air quality in the Country.

(b) The details of Statewise number of stations is placed at statment. (See below)

(c) No, Sir. Steps taken to bring down the level of pollution include the following :

1. The major source of air pollution in the Country are industrial, domestic and transportation activities. Effluent, emission and ambient noise standards have been prescribed under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986;

2. Environmental guidelines have been evolved for siting and operation of industries ;

3. Industries have been asked to comply with consent requirements of the State Pollution Control Boards to limit the discharge of effluent and emissions within the stipulated standard;

4. The Central Government in consultation with the State Governments have prepared the