

Setting up of Ozone Fund Multilateral Committee

2255. SHRI SOM PAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that the executive committee of the multilateral Ozone Fund set up under the Montreal Protocol has approved India's country programme (CP) for phasing out Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS);

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and how it is proposed to be utilised;

(c) whether some physical targets and time frame have been prescribed for the scheme as conditionalities; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) The Montreal Protocol Executive Committee has approved the India country programme documentation. However, it has asked us to incorporate in the country programme documentation additional information on small scale sector, list of projects, basis of calculation of incremental cost and requested us to consider possibilities of accelerating phase out and avoiding new ODS production facilities. The country programme documentation, so revised, is to be submitted to the Montreal Protocol Executive Committee at a subsequent meeting.

(b) India's per capita consumption of Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS) is low, and as such it qualifies for financial and technical cooperation, including the transfer of technologies. India is self sufficient in the production of Chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), and is expected to become self sufficient in the production of Halons.

To achieve the phaseout of ODS a mix of instruments in the form of voluntary agreements, legislations and regulations, fiscal incentives, educational programmes and information campaigns will be used.

The approach will be to encourage local production. Thrust will be to maintain self-sufficiency in respect of substitutes and minimize economic dislocation. Drop-in-substitutes will be developed as far as practicable, and conservation and recycling project formulated to off-set the cost to the consumer. Programmes will be initiated to ensure that the small and tiny enterprises, informal sector and consumers are helped.

The Country Programme is proposed to be utilized for implementation of the Montreal Protocol, particularly for preparation of phase out projects by the industry for seeking grant from the Multilateral Fund set up for the purpose.

(c) and (d) The Protocol (London Amendment) provides that the Ozone Depleting Substances in the category of countries in which India is placed, are to be phased out by the year 2010 and replaced by alternative environmental friendly substances or process. The commitment is contingent on transfer of technology and financial resources.

Allotment of waste and forest lands to private companies

2256. SHRI SOM PAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to give waste and forest lands to private companies;

(b) if so, what is the rationale thereof;

(c) whether Government would consider allotting such lands to the landless marginal, small and medium farmers as well as educated unemployed; and

(d) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) No, Sir. There is no proposal to transfer any land to private companies.