

environmental certification and 60% had a separate environment department.

(e) The Government proposes to take up an effective Environmental Management System through amalgamation of self regulation and command and control system.

Safeguarding environment through awareness

666. SHRI S. SIVASUBRAMANIAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have an institution to teach/create awareness about environment amongst tourists, to safeguard the environment;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether any Act has been framed to safeguard the environment against the citizens/ tourists who throw garbage in the open; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) There is no specialised institution under the Ministry of Environment and Forests to teach/ create awareness on environment specifically amongst the tourists. However, eight Centres of Excellence established and funded by the Ministry have been conducting training courses, which cover topics concerning environment conservation including Eco-tourism. The Ministry also provides financial assistance to various NGOs and other institutions of the country to create awareness among general public through its National Environment Awareness Campaign (NEAC) programme and to organise seminar, symposia, workshops etc. for imparting education and information on environment.

(d) and (e) There is no specific Act for safeguarding the environment against the citizens/ tourists who throw garbage in the open. However, the Ministry has notified Municipal Solid Waste (Management and Handling) Rules 2000 under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. These rules provide for collection, segregation and disposal of solid waste, including garbage, by the municipal bodies.