

FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH (a) to (e) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House. However, it is reported that allegations in this regard have been made in the Court of the Metropolitan Magistrate at Kurla, Bombay and are being investigated.

Emission of pollutant gases by Travancore Titanium products

4343. SHRI SOM PAL:

DR. NAUNIHAL SINGH:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that pollutant gases emitted by the Travancore Titanium Products are beyond permissible limits;

(b) what is the permissible limit of such gases and what is the actual quantity of gases being emitted by the unit; and

(c) what action is proposed to be taken against the company?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) Sulphur dioxide emissions at time, exceed the limit from the sulphuric acid plant of Travancore Titanium Products, even though a Double Conversion Double Absorption system has been adopted. Permissible limit for sulphur dioxide from an acid plant is 1500 milligrams Per normal cubic metre. Occasional excessive emission upto 2700 milligrams per normal cubic metre has been observed from the unit in the last two years. Excessive emissions occur for quarter of an hour during start up.

(c) The Kerala Pollution Control Board has directed the Travancore Titanium Products to replace the existing acid plant with a new one of 300 tons per day capacity with an extra catalyst bed and a start up scrubber, and with an on line sulphur dioxide monitor. The unit has also initiated work on installation of pollution control measures which includes a combination of 14 digester

stacks and raising the height of 2(i) stacks from the digester, boiler, calciner, grinding mill and spray drier to 25 metres, as in the acid plant.

Forest area in the country

4384. SHRI SOM PAL:

DR. NAUNIHAL SINGH:

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

(a) what is the total forest area in the country;

(b) what is the State-wise breakup of, the forest area;

(c) The land which has been earmarked by Government for afforestation;

(d) whether some concrete plans have been formulated for bringing the area so earmarked under green cover; and

(e) if so, what is the time-frame, modalities and other details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) The total recorded forest area in the country as per the 'State of Forest Report 1991' is 770078 Sq. Kms.

(b) The State-wise break-up of the forest area in the country is detailed in the Statement. (See below).

(c) No specific land is earmarked for afforestation. However, afforestation is done largely in degraded forests and also along roads, canal banks, railway lines, fields bunds and public and private wastelands as per the availability of funds.

(d) and (e) A massive programme of afforestation including Social and Farm Forestry under the 20 Point Programme is under implementation in all the States/ Union Territories. During the Vth Five Year Plan 8.88 million hectares were brought under afforestation and in the Eighth Five Year Plan, there is a proposal to cover an area of 18 million hectares under forest/tree cover, at a proposed outlay of Rs. 9950 crores.