

स्थिति से निपटने की व्यवस्था करनी होती है। इन समितियों का वायु और जल प्रदूषण से कोई सीधा सम्बन्ध नहीं है।

(ग) और (घ) प्रश्न नहीं उठते।

#### Felling of Mango Trees in Andhra Pradesh

205. DR. YELAMANCHILISIVAJI:  
Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the forest department have felled hundreds of mango trees in Nuziveedu Taluka of Andhra Pradesh; if so, what are the details thereof; and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : It is not true that the Department of Forests, Andhra Pradesh has felled hundreds of Mango trees in Nuziveedu Taluka. The State Government have informed that some villageers had planted mango seedlings on forests lands in Numiveedu Range and the same were got uprooted by the Department.

#### Ground Water Pollution

206. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD :  
Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) Whether it is a fact that chemical fertilizers are known to cause ground Water pollution and if so, the details of such pollution detected in the country and corrective steps taken to safeguard ecology and environment;

(b) whether it is a fact that fertilizers release nitrates which in turn cause cancer; and

(c) whether Industrial Toxicological Research Centre or any other Institute in India is working on the subject and if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) and (b) Limited studies carried out on ground water pollution indicate that extensive use of nitrogenous fertilizer can result in release of nitrates which cause ground water pollution. Such studies have been carried out in Punjab and Haryana. Nitrates consumed over a very long period of time may result in the formation of nitroso or nitroso-amino compounds which are known to be carcinogenic.

The corrective steps taken to safeguard ground water pollution include promo-

tion of optimum combination of organic and inorganic fertilizers and use of bio-fertilizers. Use of bone meal as a fertilizer is also encouraged.

(c) Indian Toxicology Research Centre (ITRC) is doing experimental studies on the nitrate related health problems in drinking water. It has also conducted safety evaluation studies with respect to various drinking water sources including ground water in 20 districts in various-parts of India. One of the parameters of these studies was quantification of nitrates in the samples analysed. In addition to ITRC institutions like National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI), Nagpur, All India Institute of Public Health & Hygiene Calcutta, Tata Cancer Research Institute Bombay, National Institute of Nutrition, Hyderabad etc. are carrying out studies on various aspects of nitrate related health problems, including water.

#### Great Indian Rhino may become extinct

207. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE :  
DR. SANJAYA SINH :

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

(a) Whether it is a fact that the great Indian Rhino may soon become extinct as per the newsitem captioned "Great Indian Rhino may become extinct" which appeared in the Times of India, dated January 28, 1992;

(b) if so, what is the population of Rhino in the country at present;

(c) whether it is a fact that their figures are manipulated during census operations and that the actual Rhino population is much less than what is officially shown;

(d) if so, what are the facts in this regard; and

(e) what effective steps Government propose to take to save the Indian Rhino from extinction?

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

(b) As per 1990 estimate the number of rhinos in the wild in the country is 1591.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Effective steps taken/proposed to be taken to save the Indian Rhino from extinction include :