

non-submission of essential information expeditiously.

Production and Export of Red Sandal Wood

214. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the forests in Cuddapah and Chittoor districts of Andhra Pradesh are famous for Red Sandal Wood for which there is good market in Japan ;

(b) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to increase the production and export of Red Sandal Wood ; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) There is no such specific proposal under Central Govt's consideration. However, there is already plantation activity going on in the districts of Chittoor, Cuddapah and Nellur to increase production of Red Sanders.

Rise in Pollution in Delhi

215. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a newsitem captioned "Alarming rise in pollution" which appeared in the Hindustan Times dated 31-1-92;

(b) whether it is a fact that the efforts made by the Delhi Administration to check pollution in the capital have not yielded any results;

(c) if so, whether it is also a fact that a number of vehicles on road in the capital are running with poisonous fumes; and

(d) the steps are contemplating by Government to check the pollution in the capital?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. The steps taken by Delhi Administration to control pollution include the following:—

(i) The Transport Department has been implementing a plan scheme 'control of air pollution from exhaust of motor vehicles'.

(ii) Free facilities of pollution checking have been provided.

(iii) The Transport Department has formulated a detailed scheme in July 1990 for certification of pollution standards of private vehicles registered in Delhi. Under the scheme vehicle owners have to obtain pollution control check certificate for their vehicles according to their registration numbers as per prescribed time schedule. For this purpose 115 private workshops and petrol pumps have been authorised to provide pollution checking and tuning facilities. These centres have provided pollution checking facilities to approximately 6.86 lakhs vehicles between July 1990 and January 1992. Approximately 2.01 lakh polluting vehicles were tuned and their pollution level brought within prescribed standards. A total number of 12.68 lakh vehicle owners have availed pollution checking facilities between March 1990 and January 1992 and approximately 1.67 lakh vehicle owners have been issued warning slips for non-compliance of standards prescribed in the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989.

(iv) A prosecution drive was launched in the month of April 1990. 4901 vehicles have been challenged till January 1992 in accordance with the provisions of Motor Vehicles Act, 1988.

(v) Certificate of fitness of approximately 5330 transport vehicles has been cancelled and their vehicle owners have been instructed to bring their vehicles the prescribed standards before obtaining certificate of fitness.

(d) The steps taken by the government to check pollution in the capital include the following:—

(1) Gross emission standards for all types of on the road vehicles have been notified under the Motor Vehicles Rules 1989, and these have come into force from March 1, 1990.

(2) The Ministry of Surface Transport have advised the various State Transport Directorate including Directorate of Transport, Delhi Administration to enforce the gross emission standards.