

Eco-development would also be taken in the identified areas for increasing the productivity of land, reducing the dependence of the people on the forests, carrying out programmes for improving the quality of livestock and reduce its number, developing alternative sources of energy and encourage use of non-timber housing material etc

Environment Policy

704. SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any Environment policy; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) and (b) Government propose to issue an Environmental policy Statement

Prohibition of use of vehicles by individuals to clear the cities of fuel pollution

705 SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to prohibit the use of vehicles by individuals to clear Delhi and other cities of vehicle fuel pollution and also to save petrol and diesel, and

(b) if so, by when action would be initiated to stop individual use of vehicles?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) (a) No, Sir

(b) Does not arise

SAARC meet at Male

706 CHOWDHRY HARI SINGH, SHRI SURESH PACHOURI.

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the subjects discussed at the recent summit meeting of SAARC held at Male;

(b) the decisions taken at the summit; and

(c) the follow-up action being taken or proposed to be taken to implement those decisions?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA): (a) and (b) The details of the subjects discussed at the recent Summit Meeting of SAARC held at Male and the decisions taken at the Summit are contained in the Male Declaration and the Joint Press Release, copies of which have already been laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix CLVI, Annexure No. 12]

(c) The Ministry of External Affairs is in touch with various Ministries/Departments of Government of India to take follow-up measures in order to implement these decisions.

Killing of Tamil Nadu fishermen by Sri Lankan Army

707. SHRI S MADHAVAN
SHRI M VINCENT

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state

(a) whether the Sri Lankan Army fired and killed Tamil Nadu fishermen near Kacha Theevu in October, 1990,

(b) the number of incidents of firing by Sri Lankan Army against our fishermen during the year 1990 and what are the details thereof;

(c) whether the Tamil Nadu fishermen are prevented from fishing around Kacha Theevu Island by Sri Lankan Army, and

(d) whether Government would reconsider the agreement with Sri Lanka on Kacha Theevu Island in order to protect the rights of fishing of our fishermen?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA) (a) No, Sir

(b) In 1990, five incidents of firing by Sri Lankan Navy against Indian fishermen were reported;

16th July: Sri Lankan Navy fired on Indian fishermen west of Kachatheevu injuring 2 fishermen;

29th/30th July, Sri Lankan Navy fired upon seven Indian fishing boats off Dhanushkodi causing damage to one boat and injuring some fishermen.

14th September Sri Lankan Air Force helicopters fired at Indian fishing boats resulting in the death of 3 fishermen and injuries to 21 others

29th October, Sri Lankan Navy fired on an Indian boat off Point Pedro, no casualties reported .

13th November Sri Lankan Navy opened fire on an Indian fishing boat at Kachatheevu area resulting in death of three persons

(c) and (d) Under the Indo-Sri Lanka Maritime Boundary Agreement of 1974, we had agreed to Sri Lanka's title to Kachatheevu island. However, in terms of Article 5 of the Agreement, "Indian fishermen and pilgrims will enjoy access to visit Kacha-Theevu as hitherto and will not be required by Sri Lanka to obtain travel documents or visas for this purpose". The Government of India have no intention to reopen this Agreement. What is needed is its effective implementation—an objective which we are constantly pursuing

Augmentation ship service from Madras to Europe

708. SHRI S MADHAVAN Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state

(a) whether the shippers and manufacturers in Tamil Nadu have appealed to the Shipping Corporation of India to augment the services from Madras to Europe and to resume the service to Australia suspended since May, 1990, and

(b) if so, what action has been taken on their representations?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI MANUBHAI KOTADIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Shipping Corporation of India Ltd., operates regular break-bulk services from Madras to U.K./Continent. Shipping Corporation of India also offers Container Service from Madras to Europe every 17 days on the average. During January-September, 1990, 17 foreign shipping lines also offered 145 sailings on this route, mostly feeders connecting cargo to main-line vessels at Colombo or Singapore. Thus, there are already adequate sailings available and SCI vessels have, in fact, sailed from Madras with un-utilised space in the absence of adequate cargo. Therefore, SCI feel that there is no commercial need to augment the service on this sector.

SCI suspended its service to Australia for reasons of non-viability. The accumulated losses of SCI during 1961-62 to 1989-90 work out to Rs 46.76 crores on this service. Since SCI operates on commercial lines, it is not considered desirable to resume this service.

Australian initiative to solve Sri Lanka Tamil problems

709 SHRI S MADHAVAN Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state

(a) whether Government are aware that the Government of Australia have taken steps to solve the Sri Lankan Tamil problem through the Commonwealth Association,

(b) what are the initiatives taken by that Government in this regard, and

(c) whether the Government of India was sounded on these proposals by the Australian Government?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA) (a) and (b) Government are aware that the Australian Prime Minister had written to the President of Sri Lanka proposing a Commonwealth good offices role to mediate in the ethnic conflict in Sri Lanka.