

RAJYA SABHA

Tuesday, the 3rd September, 1991/12
Bhadra, 1913 (Saka)

The House met at eleven of the clock,
Mr. Chairman in the Chair.

MEMBER SWORN

Shrimati Basanti Sarma (Assam)

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

*101. [The questioners (Kumari Alia and Shri Dhuleshwar Meena) were absent. For answer vide col. 36 infra].

*102. [The questioner (Shri Shamim Hashmi) was absent. For answer, vide col. 37 infra].

*103. [The questioner (Shri Raghavi) was absent. For answer, vide col. 37—40 infra].

*104. [The questioner (Shri Shankar Dayal Singh) was absent. For answer, vide col. 41 infra].

Proposal to amend the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986

*105. SHRI KAPIL VERMA:†

SHRI RAM NARESH YADAV:

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

(a) whether Government propose to amend the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 so as to bring about certain types of industries within its purview for obtaining environmental approval; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

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

(b) Does not arise.

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Kapil Verma.

SHRI KAPIL VERMA: I want to know: (a) whether the Government at any stage was considering proposals for issuing notifications under the Act to define geographical areas, industries, power consumption limits and other industries which would have to get environmental clearance? If so, what is the reason for giving up this idea? (b) whether more than half of the large and medium industries are yet to put up plants and machinery for pollution control? If so, what action is being taken against them? (c) whether any legislation to incorporate civil liability in case of environmental damage is proposed to be introduced? If so, when?

SHRI KAMAL NATH: Sir, in order to facilitate location and choice of technological aspects for mitigating the environmental impact, the Ministry proposes to issue a specific notification with the following objectives:

(i) To avoid the location of industries in specified areas;

(ii) To regulate haphazard development in other areas;

(iii) To promote environmental aspect and rehabilitation in already degraded areas.

(iv) To involve the State Government in the process of impact assessment and clearance.

Adequate steps are provided in the Environment Protection Act and these will be strictly enforced.

SHRI KAPIL VERMA: I had asked about the legislation to incorporate civil liability.

SHRI KAMAL NATH: There has been a proposal for environmental tribunals which shall come into being shortly to cover hazardous substances and this will be at the Central and the State levels.

SHRI KAPIL VERMA: My second supplementary is whether the Government has identified the most-polluting industries and, if so, how many such industries are there and whether this is being reduced because of certain reasons,