

ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that about ten lakh people die every year due to degradation of environment, urban air pollution, shortage of clean water and the increasing pollution caused by toxic and chemical substances and wastes etc. emitted from the industrial factories;

(b) if so, the State-wise/metro-wise details thereof;

(c) whether the scientists have expressed apprehensions about the likely major impact of bombardment on Taliban on the Indian environment;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps being taken by Government to tackle the situation?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) There have been some reports on premature deaths due to pollution. However, there is no conclusive data available to confirm these figures. No mortality data attributable to pollution is available.

(c) No such reports have come to the notice of the Government.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Setting up of Processed Food Authority

658. SHRI NAGENDRA NATH OJHA:

SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

Will the Minister of **FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up a Processed Food Authority of India to establish standards for food in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that a number of agencies exist already to ensure the standard and quality of food in the country; and

(d) if so, the necessity of setting up a new authority for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (PROF. CHAMAN LAL GUPTA):

(a) and (b) An outline of the processed draft Processed Food Development Bill has been drawn up by the Ministry of food Processing Industries, which envisages *inter-alia* setting up of a Processed Food Development Authority to establish standards for processed foods. As the proposal is only in a preliminary stage details have not been worked out.

(c) and (d) The Ministry organized four Regional Seminars, a National Conference and a National Seminar regarding formulation of the draft policy on Food Processing. During the deliberations of these Seminars wherein the representatives of State Governments, industry associations, industrialists, R&D institutions and other experts participated, the unanimous view expressed was that there is a multiplicity of agencies dealing with food standards and food quality and that to facilitate the growth of the industry a single window approach is desirable.

Navodaya/Kendriya Vidyalayas in Himachal Pradesh

†659. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the districts of Himachal Pradesh where approval for opening of Navodaya Vidyalayas/Kendriya Vidyalayas has not been given so far;

(b) the places where approval to open such Vidyalayas had been granted but they have not yet been opened;

(c) the reasons for not opening of these Vidyalayas; and

(d) by when such Vidyalayas would be opened?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA): (a) to (d) All the districts of Himachal Pradesh excepting Kullu have Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas. Kendriya Vidyalayas are not opened district-wise and at present the districts of Kinnaur, Kullu, Bilaspur, Una and Lahaul-Spiti do not have Kendriya Vidyalayas. There is presently no proposal to open Kendriya

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.