

(e) if so, the details thereof.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) The Government is aware of the pollution caused by effluents released by the H-Acid manufacturing units in Bichhri.

(b) and (c) A number of steps are being taken to control the pollution. These include:

(i) The two units manufacturing H-Acid have been closed down.

(ii) The Central Government has directed the Rajasthan State Pollution Control Board to take effective measures for the safe removal and disposal of sludge generated in the manufacture of H-Acid.

(iii) The Supreme Court has directed the units to undertake the work of transporting and storing the sludge in safe places before the advent of monsoon and to bear the costs for the same. The work is being carried out under the supervision of the Rajasthan Pollution Control Board.

(d) and (e) The State Government has been directed by the Supreme Court to collect data on the nature and extent of environmental damage to estimate the amount of compensation that is required to be paid to the affected villages

Health hazards of Benzene

1394. SHRI SHAMIM HASHMI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Benzene is widely used in Synthesis of various chemicals compounds, drugs, inks, paints, rubber industry, fruits, fish, eggs, daily production etc., and as octane booster in gasoline;

(b) whether it is found in high concentration in urban areas with heavy truck and auto traffic; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to reduce the health hazards from Benzene?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) Benzene is widely used as a solvent and raw material for the synthesis of a wide variety of chemical compounds. Benzene is not used as an octane booster in petrol.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Benzene is listed at S. No. 32 in Part II of Schedule I of the Rules on Manufacture, Storage and Import of Hazardous Chemicals notified on 27th November, 1989 under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1936. The rules regulate the handling of Benzene. An occupier controlling an industrial activity handling Benzene has to take steps to prevent major accidents and provide for the safety of the workers; collect, develop and disseminate information and give information to the concerned authority about imports.

1395. [Transferred to the 30th May, 1990]

Encouragement of Sanskrit

1396. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state.

(a) what steps are being taken to encourage Sanskrit;

(b) whether it is a fact that in some parts of the country Sanskrit Schools and Collages have been closed down for want of funds; and

(c) if so, what steps are taken to meet the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA): (a) For encouraging the study of Sanskrit in the country, following schemes/programmes have been undertaken:—

(i) Financial grants to Voluntary Organisations working in the field of Sanskrit.

(ii) Financial grants to Adarsh Sanskrit Pathshalas.

(iii) Financial assistance for eminent elderly Sanskrit scholars in Adarsh Sanskrit Pathshalas and other Voluntary Organisations.

(iv) Financial assistance to States/U.Ts. for the development of Sanskrit education.

(v) Financial assistance for the production of Sanskrit literature, besides purchase and publication of rare manuscripts.

(vi) Special Orientation Courses to post-graduate students in vocational disciplines like Epigraphy, Iconography etc.

(vii) Preservation of Oral Tradition of Vedic Recitation.

(viii) Holding of All India Elcution Contest and Vedic Convention.

(ix) Vedic Endowment.

(x) The Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan an autonomous body established under the Ministry conducts examination for various courses.

(xi) The Rashtriya Veda Vidya Pratishthan has also been established as an autonomous body under the Ministry for the development of traditional and vedic education.

(xii) The Central Sanskrit Board under the Chairmanship of Vice-President of India has been set up to advise the Government of India on policy matters pertaining to the development of Sanskrit education.

(b) and (c) No instances of closure of Sanskrit Colleges for want of financial resources have come to the notice of the Government. The maintenance of Schools and Colleges is the responsibility of the concerned State Governments. However, for Colleges, U.G.C. provides development support for improving infrastructural facilities like books, journals, equipment, buildings and staff.

Setting up of Major Electronic Industry Orissa

1397. SHRI BASUDEB MOHAPATRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set-up a major electronic industry in Orissa;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the total amount required for the setting up of the Industry there?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (PROF. M. G. K. MENON): (a) to (c) Government of India encourages the setting up of electronic industries throughout the country in all relevant sectors of electronics. The concerned State Government or agencies like the State Electronics Development Corporations (SEDCs) provide some facilities and promotional incentives for setting up of specific industrial units in the state. The Department of Electronics gives necessary guidance and approvals/licences etc. Department of Electronics also provides some assistance for projects in areas such as manpower development and education, quality control, testing and standardisation, R&D in electronics etc. The State of Orissa is being covered under various activities of the Department of Electronics like setting up of a Software Technology Park and LSI/VLSI Design Centre at Bhubaneswar. EPDC, Bhubaneswar is in operation and it provides test and calibration facilities to small and medium scale electronics industry in the region. In addition, a total of 11 Industrial Licences and 59 Letters of Intent/Registrations have been issued for the manufacture of electronic products in the State of Orissa. Government of India has no plans at present to set up a major electronics industry in Orissa.