

सांस्कृतिक आदान-प्रदान शिष्टमंडल

1391. श्री शंकर दयाल सिंह : क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) भारतीय शिष्टमंडलों को सांस्कृतिक आदान-प्रदान हेतु किन-किन देशों में भेजे जाने का विचार है ; और

(ख) उक्त प्रयोजन के लिये किन-किन देशों के शिष्टमंडलों द्वारा इस वर्ष भारत की यात्रा किये जाने की संभावना है ?

मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री जमनशर्मा मेहता) :

(क) और (ख) सूचना एकत्र की जा रही है और सभा पटल पर रख दी जायेगी ।

Imposition of fine for Pollution by the Vehicles

1392. SHRI SHAMIM HASHMI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to introduce a minimum fine of Rs. 1000/- for pollution from vehicles; if so, the details thereof and the pollutants which are sought to be controlled;

(b) whether Government are aware that maximum pollution, both chemical and sound, comes from motorcycles, three-wheelers, trucks, diesel engines and the least from cars; if so, the estimated break up of chemical pollution from each of the various types of vehicles on the road throughout the country;

(c) whether Government would as a first step to ban vehicles using mobil oil in the fuel; and

(d) whether Government also propose to set up an Advisory Committee, with adequate consumer representation, before making any unrealistic and discriminatory legislation/rules?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) In the Motor (Vehicles) Amendment Act, 1988, Section 190(2) provides a minimum fine of Rs. 1000/- for the first offence and Rs. 2000/- for subsequent offences. The major pollutants which are sought to be controlled are: Carbon monoxide from petrol-driven vehicles (3 and 4.5 per cent by volume for four and two/three -wheeled vehicles respectively) and smoke from diesel driven vehicles (65 Hatridge Smoke Units).

(b) As reported by the Central Pollution Control Board, the main pollutant from vehicles is Carbon monoxide. It has been estimated that the Carbon monoxide emission from passenger cars is 40 kg./1000 km. run as against 17 kg. for two-wheelers and 12.7 kg. from trucks. The Government are not aware of any studies conducted on noise emission from different types of vehicles.

(c) and (d) There are no such proposals.

H-Acid Pollution in Bichhri near Udaipur

1393. SHRI SHAMIM HASHMI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to refer to answer to the Unstarred Question 982 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 4th May, 1989 and state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the report which appeared in the Health for Millions of June, 1989 on the H-Acid Pollution in Bichhri near Udaipur in Rajasthan;

(b) whether the pollution has been totally controlled and eliminated;

(c) whether any corrective steps have been taken against the offenders; if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any compensation has been paid to the villages affected by the pollution; and

(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.