

(b) whether the Supreme Court had also recommended in 1986 for the setting up of such courts;

(c) if so, what is Government's re-action thereto"; and

(d) by when such courts are likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) and (b) The Supreme Court has suggested in a judgement in February, 1986 that environmental courts consisting of one professional judge and two experts drawn from ecological sciences research group be established in the country so that expert and technical knowledge can be applied when environment-related cases are decided and that right of appeal from the decisions of the environmental courts would lie to the Supreme Court.

(c) and (d) The question of setting up Environmental Courts has been examined by the Government. It was noted that:

(A) Environmental courts with judicial and expert members as suggested by the Supreme Court have the merit of being capable of delivering quick and informed judgements in environmental cases;

(B) However, establishment of such courts will be useful only if they are established widely throughout the country so as to be accessible easily to the implementing agencies and the citizens;

(C) The number of environmental cases at present is too low to justify the establishment of environmental courts in sufficient numbers; and

(D) With the increasing industrial infrastructure and environmental awareness in the country, the number of cases will increase in the future but this will happen only if the implementing agencies are strengthened to detect violations of environmental laws. The

Government has initiated scheme* for such strengthening.

In view of the above it is felt that the question of establishment of environmental courts could be considered after a period of 3 years based on the quantum of environmental litigation at that time.

Introduction of water pricing system for industries

•100. ISHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI K. V. THANGKABALU:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that during the Fourth Meeting of the Central Ganga Authority it was decided to adopt a water pricing system which would serve as an incentive to the industries to conserve water and also to recycle the same for maximum re-use; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) and (b) At the Fourth Meeting of the Central Ganga Authority the existing arrangements for charging for supply of water to industries were reviewed and the need to adopt a water pricing system which would serve as an incentive to industries to conserve water and recycle the same for maximum re-use stressed.

Transfers in the State Bank of Indore

704 SHRI KAILASH PATI MISHRA. Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the maximum period for which officers of the State Bank of Indore can remain posted continuously at its branches in Indore, Bombay, Calcutta and Delhi;