

(c) the names of the countries invited recent for a preparatory committee for such a counter conference; and

(d) what is the reaction of the Government of India in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN): (a) to (d) While there does not seem to be any change in the professed stand of the Government of Sri Lanka on the establishment of a Zone of Peace in the Indian Ocean, the Sri Lankan authorities have recently convened a conference on economic, scientific and technical cooperation in the field of Marine Affairs, in the context of the new Ocean Regime. India decided not to participate in this meeting. It is our view that the main priority has necessarily to be on efforts at achieving the convening of the Conference on the implementation of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace. This conference is of Prime importance. Nothing should be done which could result in a setback to this main objective.

Development of Green Areas

966. SHRI BIJOY KRISHNA HANDIQUE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the target set in the Sixth Plan for development of green areas and forests has been achieved;

(b) if not, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) if the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, to what extent the twin purpose of developing forests and human resources in the rural economy has been achieved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI VIR SEN): (a) Yes, Sir. Against a total target of planting 807 crore seedling in block plantations and farm forestry, 930 crore seedlings were planted during the Sixth Plan.

(b) Doe, not arise.

(c) It is not possible to assess these in quantitative terms.

Progress in the cleaning of River Ganga by the Central Ganga Authority

967. DR. SHYAM SUNDAR MOHAPATRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been any progress in the Ganga Clean up work undertaken by the Central Ganga Authority;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) whether Public and Private Sector undertakings are likely to be involved in this task?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI VIR SEN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Work has started on the Rishikesh and Haridwar Projects and is expected to be completed by U.P. Jal Nigam before January 1986. Some other schemes received from the State Governments of U.P. Bihar and West Bengal are under examination.

(c) Government would welcome the cooperation of Public and Private Sector undertakings and voluntary organisations in the implementation of the Ganga Action Plan. The programme and modalities of such cooperation are yet to be worked out.

Manufacturer of High Technology Electronic Components

968. SHRI KAPIL VERMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the top twenty indigenous manufacturers of high technology electronic components and materials in categories such as transistors, electronic devices, resistors, capacitors and integrated circuits; and