

ia a memorandum to the Prime Minister sought strict measures to curb water and air pollution caused by chemical industries in the GIDC Industrial Estate;

(b) the number of villages affected so far by pollution; and what remedial steps have been taken by Government in this regard;

(c) whether Gujarat State Water and Air Pollution Control Board propose to take any penal action against the erring industrialists; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI VIR SEN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) According to the State Pollution Control Board, two villages are reported to have been affected by pollution. The concerned industries have been directed to provide for necessary preventive and control measures through proper treatment and safe disposal of wastes.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

U.N. General Assembly Resolution on Conference on Indian Ocean

1009. SHRI K. MOHANAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the U.N. General Assembly passed a resolution recently recommending a conference on Indian Ocean to be not later than the first half of next year; and

(b) if so, what steps Government taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN): (a) The U.N. General Assembly on 17th December 1984 adopted a resolution which, *inter alia*, requested the Ad-hoc Committee on the

Indian Ocean to complete preparatory work to enable the opening of the Conference on the Indian Ocean at Colombo at the earliest date in the first half of 1986 to be decided by the Committee in consultation with the host country.

(b) The Government of India have been working actively in the Ad-hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean during its sessions in 1985 to ensure that preparations are complete in order to enable the holding of the Conference in time.

Preaching of separation by extremists in the Western countries

1010. SHRI S. B. RAMESH BABU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:-

(a) whether some countries where extremists are preaching separatism have been urged by the Government of India to step up security measures so that planting of bombs, explosive etc., in Air India's flight could be prevented; and

(b) if so, what is the response of those countries thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN): (a) and (b) All our Missions abroad where Air India operates have been instructed to secure assistance from local authorities to help Air India augment the security arrangements for Air India flights. Responses have been positive.

Steps to remove economic educational backwardness of minorities

1011. DR. MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS, be pleased to state;

(a) whether the Minority cell of the Home Ministry conducted any survey about the economic, social and education condition of minorities and has made its recommendations