

(b) If so, what are the details in this regard;

(c) Whether Government propose to tighten anti-pollution measures and force the fertilizer units in the country to furnish details of the pollution aspect of the industry; and

(d) If so, what are the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Preliminary Survey of 24 units, revealed that out of them have treatment plants. However in about half of them, there is scope of improvement of effluent treatment system in order to bring their pollutant discharge within limits.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The pollution control Boards are planning to implement within the Sixth Plan Period adequate pollution control systems such as improved in-plant control measures, recycling, end of process control techniques such as air/ stream, stripping, biological treatment etc. For new plants improved process technologies are being considered for adoption to minimise the pollutant discharges. Standards have been laid down for air emissions for existing and new fertilizer units.

Survey regarding pollution of Indian Ocean

428. SHRIMATI RATAN KUMARI:

SHRI JAGDISH PRASAD
MATHUR:

SHRI NAND KISHORE
BHATT:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey has been conducted regarding pollution of the Indian Ocean and the Bay of Bengal waters; if so, what are the findings; and

(b) what steps are being taken to check growing pollution in them?;

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINK), (a) Yes Sir, according to the surveys conducted by National Institute of Oceanography the marine environment near the coastal towns is polluted on account of discharge of industrial and domestic wastes. The existence of tar balls in some coastal areas is attributed to oil pollution.

(b) The State Water Pollution Control Board of the coastal areas are taking appropriate measures for repulsive discharge of effluents from different polluting sources. The industries and local bodies are being persuaded to install pollution abatement devices. The Merchant Shipping Act has been amended to regulate the discharge of oil from ships and tankers.

Encroachment and construction of forests in the Andaman Islands

429. DR. BHAI MAHAVIR:

SHRI SHRIDHAR WASUDEO
DHABE:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that there is encroachment and destruction of forests in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands;

(b) whether any enquiry has been conducted on the distribution of applications for regularisation of the same, and if so, with what results; and

(c) what steps are being taken to check effectively the encroachment and destruction of forests in the Islands?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. VENKATASUBBAIAH): (a) to (c) The information is being ascertained and will be laid on the Table of the House.