

nment and would be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Pollution in Metropolitan Industrial Cities

2149. SHRI G. C. BHATTACHARYA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have measured air, water and noise pollution in the metropolitan cities of India as also in large industrial cities such as Kanpur, Ahmedabad, Jamshedpur, etc;

(b) if so, the results of such studies;

(c) whether the levels of pollution are in keeping with the prescribed levels in other advanced industrial countries of the West; and

(d) whether Delhi falls within such minimum levels of pollution ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINH): (a) The National Environmental Engineering Research Institute, Nagpur has conducted studies on air pollution in 10 cities. The Central and the State Boards for the Prevention and Control of Water Pollution are monitoring water quality through a network of 234 sections which also include stations near Metropolitan and Industrial towns:

Noise level Surveys have been carried out in Ahmedabad, Bombay, Delhi, Madras and Calcutta by some research institutions.

(b) Gaseous pollutants except for suspended particulate matter in the atmosphere are generally below the standards prescribed by the International bodies though there are transient increases in local pockets occasionally.

The data from the monitoring programme undertaken by Central Board is

being analysed on a continuing basis. According to the tentative findings the levels of water pollution in the water bodies near the metropolitan/ industrial cities is on the higher side in respect of suspended solids, organic matters and coliform counts. Heavy metals and pesticides are almost found to be below acceptable levels.

The peak noise level on the streets in the cities where it has been measured ranges from 75-90 decibels.

(c) The levels of pollution are comparable or below the prescribed levels in other advanced countries except for organic and bacteriological pollution in water and suspended particulate matter in air. Noise levels in some congested pockets sometimes exceeds the prescribed limits of the western countries.

(d) The statement in (c) above is also applicable to Delhi.

Exploration of Indian Ocean Seabed

2150. DR. LOKESH CHANDRA : SHRI P. N. SUKUL

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has registered its claim with the UN for two plots of 150,000 square Kms each in the Indian Ocean seabed for exclusive mining rights; and

(b) whether exploration of the Indian Ocean seabed has been taken up by other countries besides India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, ELECTRONICS, OCEAN DEVELOPMENT AND THE DEPARTMENT OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI C. P. N. SINGH) :

(a) India has been recognised as a Pioneer Investor in seabed mining by resolution adopted by the UN Conference on the Law of the Sea on April 30, 1982. The Convention on the Law of the Sea will be opened