

Air pollution in the capital

889. SHRI RAMESHWAR SINGH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that according to the study conducted by the Central Pollution Control Board recently, air pollution in the Capital has been found at a new high.

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

(c) what are the preventive measures taken/proposed to be taken by Government to check the growing air pollution in the Capital?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINH): (a) and (b) The Central Board for the Prevention and Control of Water Pollution has carried out some preliminary studies on air pollution in Delhi. Detailed studies in this regard are contemplated. Any conclusive inference can be drawn only after the results of the detailed studies are available.

(c) The Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981, has come into force in May, 1981. The Central Boards for the Prevention and Control of Water Pollution is taking suitable measures to prevent and control the air pollution in Delhi being caused by various sources.

Pollution in Metropolitan Cities

890. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the metropolitan cities which face the pollution threat;

(b) the main features responsible for the pollution of those metropolitan cities; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by Government to check pollution in those cities?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINH): (a) and (b) Almost all the Metropolitan cities face a pollution threat. The main factors responsible for pollution in these cities are:—

(i) High density of population with growing slums and inadequate provisions for civic amenities;

(ii) Unplanned industrialisation with inadequate measures for the prevention and control of water and air pollution; and

(iii) Lack of Public awareness for sanitation for quality of life.

(c) The Central Board and the State Boards for the Prevention and Control of Water Pollution which have been set up under the provisions of the Water (Prevention and Control of Water Pollution) Act, 1974 are taking suitable action for developing an environmental monitoring surveillance system and are persuading the municipalities, industries and other polluters to restrain and control the pollution by installing pollution control systems. Wherever the polluters fail to take suitable action for pollution control, these Boards have the power under the Act to launch prosecution against them.

Advisory Committee on Science and Technology

891. SHRI SURENDRA MOHAN:

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any agency to co-ordinate all research and development efforts by Government, Public Sector, Uni-