

levels of society. Financial assistance is provided to NGO's educational and research institutions, women and youth organisations and army units for generating awareness among people. Each year, themes are chosen around which the campaign is focused. During 1999-2000, a total of 4,040 organisations were provided financial assistance under the scheme.

(b) At the moment, there is no proposal before the Central Government to impose a complete ban on plastic bags. However, the Ministry of Environment and Forests have brought out the Recycled Plastics Manufacture and Usage Rules, 1999. These rules prohibit the use of carrybags and containers made of recycled plastics for storing, carrying, dispensing or packaging of ready-to-eat foodstuffs. In order to encourage recycling of plastics and discourage its littering, the Rules specify that minimum thickness of carrybags made of virgin or recycled plastics shall be 20 microns. The Government of Delhi have launched a sustained campaign on "Say No to plastic bags Yes to jute, cloth and paper bags". Through the campaign, the consumers are informed about the places where jute bags are available in the capital.

(c) and (d) Information from the States is being collected.

Allocations to Bihar Pollution Control Board

†2827. SHRI VIJAY SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Pollution Control Board provides financial assistance to State pollution control boards for prevention of pollution;

(b) if so, the amount provided to Bihar State Pollution Control Board during the last five years; and

(c) what have been the achievements of the Central Pollution Control Board in environment's protection during these five years?

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

(b) The Central Pollution Control Board has provided about Rs. 40 lakhs to Bihar State Pollution Control Board during the last five years.

(c) the achievements of the Central Pollution Control Board during the last five years include the following:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- Formulation of fuel quality and emissions standards for motor vehicles;
- Laying down of fuel quality specifications;
- Phasing out of lead from motor spirit;
- Reduction of sulphur in diesel;
- Reduction in the number of grossly polluting industries;
- Establishment of a network for monitoring of water and air quality;
- Development of standards and partnership with industry for waste minimisation;
- Enlisting involvement of students and non-governmental agencies for participatory programme on pollution control;
- Development of new methodologies for monitoring and control of pollution; and
- Preparation of district-wise Zoning Atlas for siting of industries.

Performance by Animals in Circus

2828. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry of Environment and Forests had issued a notification in 1991 under prevention of cruelty to Animals Act, 1960 banning, performance by animals in circus;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the animals sent to Rescue Centre have no proper upkeep; and

(c) if so, what measures Government propose to take for the welfare of those animals?

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

(b) No circus animal has been sent to any of the Rescue Centres so far.

(c) Does not arise.