

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Based on the requisition by the Commissioner for Co-operation and Registrar of Co-operative Societies (CC & RCS), Maharashtra and the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had recommended for supersession of the Board of the Bank. The Board of the bank was superseded on May 7, 2011 and a Committee of two Administrators was appointed by Government of Maharashtra to run the day to day business of the bank. Details of the findings of the NABARD, RBI and the CC & RCS, Maharashtra, which led to the recommendation for supersession of Board of the bank are as under;

- As revealed through the NABARD's inspection report, the net worth of Maharashtra State Cooperative Bank's (MSCB) as on March 31, 2010 had deteriorated and become negative to the tune of Rs. 144.22 crore (from a positive net worth of Rs. 44.02 crore as on March 31, 2009). Its gross Non Performing Assets (NPAs) stood at 31.22% as on March 31, 2010.
- NABARD recommended, in its Head Office Recommendatory (HOR) note, for supersession of the Board of Directors of MSCB.

(c) to (e) Under the provisions of the Maharashtra State Cooperative Societies Act, 1960 the Commissioner for Co-operation and Registrar of Co-operative Societies (CC & RCS), Government of Maharashtra is the Competent Authority to initiate appropriate action, if any, against the erstwhile Board of the MSCB.

New Environment Protection Framework

*213. SHRI N.K. SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has recently decided to set up a new Environment Protection Framework (EPF) wherein National Institutions will frame and monitor zonal disaster management plans;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the river and air pollution in the country is on a steady rise causing public health concern; and

(d) if so, to what extent the new Environmental Protection Framework is going to check air and river pollution in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) and (b) The regulatory regime for environmental protection comprises the legislative framework, and a set of regulatory institutions. The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) has brought out the National Disaster Management Guidelines. NDMA has also identified Nodal Ministries for various categories of disasters. The Ministry of Environment and Forests is the Nodal Ministry for Chemical Disaster and is required to implement the said Guidelines in this area. The Ministry has undertaken the task to prepare a National Action Plan on Chemical Disasters with the help of Disaster Management Institute, Bhopal.

Another new initiative of the Government is the setting up of National Green Tribunal to settle civil disputes relating to environment, including award of compensation to victims of pollution and chemical disasters.

(c) As regards the river pollution, water quality is monitored by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) in association with State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs) and Pollution Control Committees (PCCs) for Union Territories under National Water Quality Monitoring Programme (NWMP). The organic pollution measured in terms of bio-chemical oxygen demand (BOD) and coliform bacterial count gives the status of water quality. The data reveals that BOD is less than 3 milligramme per litre (mg/l) for 60% observations and between 3-6 mg/l for 22% observations. Total coliforms and faecal coliforms are less than MPN 500/100 ml for 46% and 68% observations respectively. Data further reveals that there is a mixed trend as far as river pollution is concerned.

As far as air pollution is concerned, the level of pollution with respect to ambient air is regularly monitored at 456 locations in 190 cities, towns and industrial areas across the country by the CPCB in association with various SPCBs, PCCs and NEERI, Nagpur in terms of Sulphur Dioxide (SO₂), Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂) and PM₁₀ (particulate matter less than 10 micron) under National Air Monitoring Programme (NAMP). Air quality data reveals that the annual average concentration of SO₂ is within the limit (50 microgramme per cubic metre), while levels of NO₂ have exceeded the limit (40 microgramme per cubic metre) in Asansol, Dhanbad, Delhi, Jamshedpur, Kolkata, Meerut and Mumbai during 2010. The norms of PM₁₀ (annual average - 60 microgramme/cubic metre) are exceeded in most of the cities, except Chennai, Kochi and Madurai during 2010. Overall, there is a mixed trend in the levels of urban air pollution.

(d) The Central Government is supplementing the efforts of the State Governments/urban local bodies for interception and diversion of sewage conveyance system and setting up of sewage treatment plants under the National River Conservation Plan. The National Ganga River Basin Authority (NGRBA) has adopted a 'basin approach' for comprehensively dealing with river conservation issues.

The steps taken by the Government to contain air pollution in the cities include, inter alia, strengthening of public transport, supply of cleaner fuels and strict implementation of emission norms in industries.

The Environment Protection Framework related to Disaster Management Plans does not directly address the issues of river and air pollution.

Conditions for appointment to RBI Board

*214. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is a ban on the appointment of a person to the Board of Reserve Bank of India (RBI), who is a borrower or creditor to the Indian banking system;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps Government has taken or proposes to take to protect against any potential conflict of interest in this regard, since this would be extremely difficult to regulate?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) No, Sir. A ban on the appointment of any person on the Board of Reserve Bank of India (RBI) who is a borrower or a creditor to the Indian banking system may not be practical. The intent is to appoint such persons as Directors on the Board of RBI who have substantial expertise and experience so that they can contribute to the effective functioning of RBI.

The Director on the Board of the RBI are appointed in terms of the provisions of section 8 of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934 and are duly approved by Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC). Before such appointments, necessary due diligence is done by the Government by