

**Burgeoning waste management problem**

2826. SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

- (a) the action plan to address the burgeoning waste management problem in the country;
- (b) if not addressed properly, whether it would become a health and environment crisis in the country; and
- (c) if so, the action plan of Government to fast address the above issue?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY) : (a) to (c) As per the information received from the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), all the State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs) and Pollution Control Committees (PCCs) of Union Territories have been requested by CPCB to issue directions to Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) to prepare time-bound action plans for management of municipal solid waste including plastic waste. Guidelines for formulation of such plans have been circulated to all SPCBs and PCCs by CPCB.

**Available data on air quality**

2827. SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether it is a fact in the light of recent press reports that there is no authentic data available on Air Quality in the country;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that we do not follow the international parameters to define our air quality; and
- (c) the steps that are being taken to improve the air quality in our cities?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY) : (a) and (b) The National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) have been revisited and revised NAAQS incorporating 12 pollutants, such as Sulphur Dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>), Nitrogen Dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>), PM<sub>10</sub>, PM<sub>2.5</sub>, Ammonia (NH<sub>3</sub>), Benzene (C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>6</sub>),