

eter values observed at Allahabad where a major part of Pollution Abatement Programmes has been completed, show trends of improvement in the water quality.

#### Denudation of forests in Gujarat

58. SHRI CHANDUBHAI DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that illegal denudation of forests has been made on a large scale in Bharuch and Surat districts of Gujarat during the last five years; and

(b) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) and (b). The information is being collected from the State Government and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

#### Barter Trade with China

59. SHRI PRAKASH KOKO  
BRAHMBHATT:  
SHRI K.S. CHAVDA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and China have agreed to enter into barter trade; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SHANTILAL PURUSHOTTAMDASPATEL): (a) and (b). India and China have agreed, in principle, to resume border trade which in-

cludes barter trade possibilities.

#### Effects of oil Slick in Arabian Sea and Fire in Oil wells of Kuwait on Migratory Birds

60. SHRI BANWARILAL PUROHIT: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the oil slick in the Arabian Sea and fire in the oil wells of Kuwait have threatened the return of thousands of migratory birds including Siberian cranes (Sarus) and other Wild fowl which are at present at the Keoladeo national Park (Ghana) Sanctuary in Bharatpur (Rajasthan).

(b) if so, whether the Government have since contemplated any steps to save the migratory birds; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) There has been no indication that the return of migratory birds is threatened due to the oil slick in Gulf of oil well fires in Kuwait.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

#### Reduction in consumption of Petrol and Diesel by Government Vehicles

61. SHRI J. CHOKKA RAO:  
SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of the crisis created by the Gulf war, any directives have been issued to curtail petrol and diesel consumption by the Government and Public Sector Undertakings vehicles;