6. Shet, M. S., Swamy, B. M. and Madaiah, M., *Indian J. Biochem. Biophys.*, 1985, **22**, 313.
7. Peumans, W. J., Delay, M. and Broekaert, W. F., *FEBS Lett.*, 1984, **177**, 99.
8. Ermans, A. M., Kinthaert, J., Vander, V. M. and Bourdoux, P., *Int. Dev. Res. Centre, Ottawa, Monogr. IDRC*, 1980, **C136**, 93.
9. Bourdoux, P., Mafuta, M., Hanson, A. and Ermans, A. M., *Int. Dev. Res. Centre, Ottawa, Monogr., IDRC*, 1980, **C136**, 15.
10. Lis, H. and Sharon, N., *Methods Enzymol.*, 1972, **28**, 360.
11. Liener, I. E. and Hill, E. G., *J. Nutr.*, 1953, **49**, 609.
12. Lowry, O. H., Rosebrough, M. J., Farr, A. L. and Randal, R. J., *J. Biol. Chem.*, 1951, **193**, 265.
13. Rao, M. N., Surpalekar, K. S. and Sundarvalli, O. E., *Indian J. Biochem.*, 1967, **4**, 185.
14. Shivaraj, B., Krishnasharma, K. and Pattabiraman, T. N., *Indian J. Biochem. Biophys.*, 1979, **16**, 52.
15. Rao, M. N., Surpalekar, K. S. and Sundarvalli, O. E., *Indian J. Biochem.*, 1970, **7**, 241.
16. Lis, H. and Sharon, N., In: *The biochemistry of plants*, (ed.) A. Marcus, Academic Press, New York, 1981, Vol. 6, p. 371.
17. Sharon, N. and Lis, H., *Methods Membr. Biol.*, 1975, **3**, 147.
18. Reisner, Y., Lis, H. and Sharon, N., *Exp. Cell Res.*, 1976, **97**, 445.

ANNOUNCEMENT

THE WARMING EARTH

Although the Earth went through warming periods before too, scientists mainly agree that today this process proceeds more rapidly than at any time in the past. Thus, as regards the mean world temperature, the past year was the warmest among the recorded ones, and the '80s are the warmest decade in this century.

The main reason for the warming is the accumulation in the atmosphere of carbon dioxide resulting from the burning of oil and gas. Industrial establishments in and around Moscow alone for instance, are annually throwing out into the environment as much as over one million tons of noxious substances. But the main contribution (up to 70%) to the air pollution comes from the automobile exhaust. As many as 980 thousand automobiles, driving in Moscow city, are throwing out daily into the atmosphere 4260 tons of noxious substances, more than half of which is accounted for by carbon dioxide or carbonic acid gas. Absorbing rather than reflecting the Sun's infrared rays and detaining the Earth's thermal radiation, this gas causes a steady warming of the planet. This process, known as the "hothouse effect" was first predicted in the early '70s by the Soviet scientist M. Budyko.

The "hothouse effect" is going to disturb the planet's climate, altering some critically important natural factors, such as precipitation, wind, cloud layer, ocean currents, etc. The consequences are going to affect the Earth as a whole. Interior continental areas will become drier and sea coasts more humid. Cold seasons will be shorter and the warm ones longer. Intensified evaporation will inevitably cause the drying of the soil over large areas.

Since the consequences of a further warming of the Earth would be global, the preventive actions have also to be of an international nature. Already steps are being taken for joint action by many states aimed at controlling environmental pollution. (*Soviet Features*, Science and Technology, Vol. XXVII, No. 103, October 3, 1988; Published by the Information Department, USSR Embassy in India, P.B. 241, 25 Barakhamba Road, New Delhi 110 001.)