

(a) whether India has a system for testing any forms of environmental products;

(b) if so, the details of each of them; and

(c) the details of progress made by Government in promoting the development and use of environmentally sound products and services and new technologies that take into consideration full life cycle impacts?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALLU): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Ministry of Environment and Forests had notified a scheme for Eco-Mark for certification of environmentally friendly products. Under this scheme, Bureau of Indian Standards/Directorate of Marketing and Inspection have been designated as certifying agencies. A product has to meet the requirements specified in relevant national standards for obtaining Bureau of Indian Standards certification licence for Eco-Mark. This scheme is voluntary. The objective of the Eco-Mark scheme is to encourage citizen to purchase products, which are having least harmful environmental impact, and ultimately to improve the quality of environment and to encourage sustainable management of resources. The basic criteria of Eco-Mark Scheme cover broad environmental, levels and aspects (general requirement) but specific at the product level (product specific requirement).

JBIC of forestry project in Gujarat

1836. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:

SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Gujarat Government has submitted a new forestry development project for funding by the Japan Bank for International Corporation (JBIC);

(b) if so, the salient features of the project; and

(c) when Government propose to pose this project to Japan Bank for International Corporation (JBIC)?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALLU): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir.

[2 August, 2002]

RAJYA SABHA

(b) Joint Forest Management, Eco-development in protected areas, social and farm forestry, soil and moisture conservation, capacity building of forestry personnel and communities and applied research are some of the salient features of the Gujarat Forestry Development Project. The proposed project is for a period of five years with an estimated cost of Rs. 2673 crores.

(c) The project is proposed to be posed to the Japan Bank of International Cooperation during 2003-04.

Demand and supply of fire wood

† 1837. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to formulate any plan to remove the imbalance between the demand and supply of fire wood;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the arrangement being made to remove this imbalance?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALLU): (a) and (b) Government has already formulated a National Forestry Action Programme which includes programme for improving forestry productivity through rehabilitation of degraded forests, research and technology development, assisting private initiatives with community participation and reduction of demand on forests by efficient utilisation of fuelwood and extensive bio-mass plantations.

(c) Does not arise.

Killing of snow-leopards in Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park

1838. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU):

DR.AKHILESHDAS:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to State:

(a) whether dozens of snow leopards, Siberian tigers and pandas have died or have been killed in the high altitude Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park, during the last five years;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.