

sanctuary from vested interests who are bent upon encroachment/exploitation of forest wealth?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH):

(a) No specific report of this nature has been received by the Central government from the Chief Wildlife Warden, Government of Karnataka, who is the competent authority under the Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972 to enforce the protection of the Sanctuary.

(b) Besides the legislative protection extended to the wildlife in all sanctuaries the Central Government also provides assistance to the Bhadra Wildlife Sanctuary under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for the Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries. During the financial year 1992-93, Rs. 7.65 lakhs have been released, whereas during 1990-91 and 1991-92, Rs. 4.50 lakhs and Rs. 10.0 lakhs were released respectively under this Scheme for the development of Bhadra Wildlife Sanctuary.

Clearance of Critically Polluting Industries

995. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the State Governments have been empowered to give clearances to critically polluting industries and projects; and

(b) whether Government propose to set a time frame for clearance of such projects/industries held in abeyance for a long period causing cost and time over-runs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH):

(a) No specific orders have been issued to empower the State Governments to give clearance or change the existing procedure for environmental clearance to critically polluting industries and project.

(b) Projects can be assessed and

processed only after receipt of complete data. A final decision is taken within a maximum period of three months after receipt of complete environmental data and Action Plans. Interaction is maintained with the project authorities to facilitate expeditious disposal of cases.

Destruction of Forest in Madhya Pradesh

996. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the rate at which forest is being destroyed in Madhya Pradesh, the statistics during the last three years;

(b) the steps taken to implement plantation programmes in order to compensate the destroyed forest in the state; and

(c) the deficits of the plantation programmes which have been implemented in that State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH):

(a) Approvals for diversion of 1.88 lakh ha. forest land for non forestry uses have been accorded under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 since enactment of the Act on 25.10.80, out of which approvals for diversion of 1.21 lakh ha. forest land have been accorded since 1.2.90.

(b) and (c) Compensatory afforestation over 2.28 lakh ha. has been stipulated in respect of proposals approved under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 since enactment of the Act on 25.10.80. So far compensatory afforestation has been done over 0.64 lakh ha. Madhya Pradesh State Government have been requested to expedite the progress of compensatory afforestation.