

forests using camera traps in a statistical framework. This assessment is not comparable to the earlier total count using pugmarks owing to several shortcomings in the latter. The new findings indicate a poor status of tiger population in areas outside tiger reserves and protected areas. The tiger population, by and large, in tiger reserves and protected areas of such States are viable, while requiring ongoing conservation efforts.

(d) Under the ongoing Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Project Tiger, an amount of Rs. 127.60 lakhs has been sanctioned to Manas Tiger Reserve as per the Annual Plan of Operation received from the State, out of which Rs. 43.70 lakhs has been released during 2008-09. This, *inter-alia*, includes central assistance for antipoaching activities, habitat improvement, strengthening of infrastructure, addressing man-animal conflict, other safeguards and retrofitting measures for protection and conservation of wild tigers in Manas Tiger Reserve.

Lower Plain Ganga Project

428. SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry has approved the Lower Plain Ganga Project;
- (b) if so, the charter of demands submitted by the local residents; and
- (c) the details of resettlement plans laid down by the Ministry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) Yes sir. Lower Painganga Project in district Yavatmal, Maharashtra has been accorded Environmental and in principle Forest Clearance in May, 2007 and February, 2009 respectively.

(b) Some representations have been received from Non Governmental Organisations (NGOs) such as Nimna Painganga Dharan Virodhi Sangharsh Samiti, Yavatmal Zilla Vikas Manch Yavatmal, and Lower Painganga Project Nirman Samasya Niwaran and Punarwasan Santha with differing views for and against the project.

(c) The Resettlement and Rehabilitation of the affected persons is required to be undertaken as per the provisions of Maharashtra Project Affected Rehabilitation Act 1999.

Cleaning of Yamuna river

†429. MISS ANUSUIYA UIKEY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) the amount allocated by the State Government of Delhi and the Central Government for cleaning of the Yamuna river during the last three years;
- (b) the works carried out with these allocated amount with the details, workwise;
- (c) whether the cleaning of the Yamuna river has met the expectations;
- (d) whether the experts on environment and water were consulted for such cleaning works;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(e) whether works have been executed as per their advice; and

(f) whether the cleaning work is still incomplete and by when, the same would be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (f) Under the Yamuna Action Plan Phase-II, which commenced in December, 2004 at an approved cost of Rs. 624 crore, major portion of the outlay i.e. Rs. 387.19 crore, has been allocated to Delhi. The cost of works under YAP-II is to be shared between the Government of India and State Governments in the ratio of 85:15. A sewage treatment capacity of 135 mld is envisaged to be created under YAP-II in Delhi. In addition, projects for the rehabilitation of 324 mld treatment capacity and rehabilitation/laying of trunk sewers for a length of 30.82 kms. are also being implemented. During the last three years central funds amounting to Rs. 72.47 crore have been released to the implementing agencies in Delhi. For facilitating implementation of YAP-II, a Project Management Consultant (PMC) comprising of experts in the field of environmental pollution control has been appointed.

In addition to the above Action Plan, the Government of Delhi has also taken up large scale non-sewerage, sewerage and sewage treatment works out of its own plan funds. In this regard Delhi Jal Board (DJB) has evolved the concept of laying interceptor sewers along the three major drains namely, Najafgarh, Supplementary and Shahdara in Delhi to prevent the flow of untreated sewage into the river Yamuna. The salient features of DJB's proposal include laying of interceptor sewers, augmentation of existing capacity of sewage treatment plants (STPs) and construction of additional sewage treatment plants after full utilization of existing STPs in a phased manner by the year 2012. The tentative cost of the project is about Rs. 1500 crore.

Implementation of the river pollution abatement works is an ongoing and continuous activity under which various schemes of pollution abatement are implemented by the Government based upon the estimated pollution loads. The quality of water in Yamuna river has not shown the desired improvement, particularly in Delhi, due to enormous increase in pollution load and lack of fresh water in the river during lean period.

Conversion of forest land for irrigation project in Madhya Pradesh

‡430. MISS ANUSUIYA UIKEY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the State Government of Madhya Pradesh has sent a proposal for the conversion of 11,530 hectare of forest land of the district Narsinghpur for the construction of Rani Avantibai Sagar Canal, if so, the date on which the said proposal has been received by Central Government;

(b) the action taken so far on this proposal by the Central Government the reason for its pendency; and

(c) until when, the permission for the said conversion would be granted?

‡Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.