

(d) India does not make any significant contribution to the concentration of greenhouse gases. With regard to fly-ash, Government have initiated several steps including the following :—

- (i) Use of fly-ash in building materials like bricks, canal lining, agoregate for road-building, cement etc. is being encouraged. Central and State Government agencies have been advised to make maximum use of fly-ash for construction works, and even modify Public Works Department Manuals if necessary.
- (ii) Instructions have been issued for free supply of fly-ash to entrepreneurs who are willing to set up units for the production of fly-ash based products.
- (iii) Filling up of abandoned mines by fly-ash is being encouraged.
- (iv) Use of fly-ash as fertilizer for increasing agricultural production is being encouraged.
- (v) Extraction of cenosphere from fly-ash is also a possibility.
- (vi) Maximum fly-ash utilisation plans as a component of future thermal power projects is being insisted soon.
- (vii) The impact assessment environmental clearance is given to those coal based power stations which propose lining of the ash cond areas, so as to prevent pollution by seepage.

#### **Tigers and Leopards in Nagarhole National Park in Karnataka**

212. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government is reconsidering the prey predator research study on tigers and leopards conducted in Nagarhole National Park in Karnataka;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof ; and

(c) if not, what steps Government propose to take to save these Tigers and Leopards from extinction ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) to (c) A research project

under the Indo-US Rupee Fund Programme on the ecology of large carnivores is under implementation in the Nagarhole National Park, Karnataka. The project involves tranquilising and radio collaring of tigers, panthers and other animals in the Park with the prior approval of the State Government. The Government of Karnataka, vide their order dated the 10th January, 1991 have banned further tranquilising, collaring or otherwise endangering any animal as a part of the above research project. Subject to the above condition, work related to the project is being continued. It is not correct to presume that the tigers and leopards in Nagarhole National Park are facing any threat of extinction.

#### **Forest Act**

213. SHRI VITHALBHAI M PATEL : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the purpose of the Forest Conservation Act, 1980 is to minimise the diversion of forest land for non-forest purposes ;

(b) what are the proposals Government have received from Government of Gujarat in this regard and the reasons for not clearing the proposals ;

(c) whether it is a fact that Government have adopted a rigorous approach even when the forest land diversion proposals are for essential purposes-like water supply, electricity, transmission lines and construction of school buildings etc; and

(d) if not, what are the reasons for delay in clearing the proposals received from the Gujarat Government ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 was enacted to check indiscriminate diversion of forest land for non-forestry use.

(b) Since enactment of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, 378 proposals were received from the Government of Gujarat for diversion of forest land for non-forestry uses, out of which only 7 proposals were pending as on 31-1-1992.

(c) and (d) All proposals received under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 are examined on merits and diversion of forest land is approved whenever it is found necessary. After receipt of all the essential details, final decision for diversion of forest land is taken expeditiously. The main reason for delay, if at all, is