

(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

non-submission of essential information expeditiously.

Production and Export of Red Sandal Wood

214. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the forests in Cuddapah and Chittoor districts of Andhra Pradesh are famous for Red Sandal Wood for which there is good market in Japan ;

(b) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to increase the production and export of Red Sandal Wood ; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) There is no such specific proposal under Central Govt's consideration. However, there is already plantation activity going on in the districts of Chittoor, Cuddapah and Nellore to increase production of Red Sanders.

Rise in Pollution in Delhi

215. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a newsitem captioned "Alarming rise in pollution" which appeared in the Hindustan Times dated 31-1-92;

(b) whether it is a fact that the efforts made by the Delhi Administration to check pollution in the capital have not yielded any results;

(c) if so, whether it is also a fact that a number of vehicles on road in the capital are running with poisonous fumes; and

(d) the steps are contemplating by Government to check the pollution in the capital?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. The steps taken by Delhi Administration to control pollution include the following:—

(i) The Transport Department has been implementing a plan scheme 'control of air pollution from exhaust of motor vehicles'.

(ii) Free facilities of pollution checking have been provided.

(iii) The Transport Department has formulated a detailed scheme in July 1990 for certification of pollution standards of private vehicles registered in Delhi. Under the scheme vehicle owners have to obtain pollution control check certificate for their vehicles according to their registration numbers as per prescribed time schedule. For this purpose 115 private workshops and petrol pumps have been authorised to provide pollution checking and tuning facilities. These centres have provided pollution checking facilities to approximately 6.86 lakhs vehicles between July 1990 and January 1992. Approximately 2.01 lakh polluting vehicles were tuned and their pollution level brought within prescribed standards. A total number of 12.68 lakh vehicle owners have availed pollution checking facilities between March 1990 and January 1992 and approximately 1.67 lakh vehicle owners have been issued warning slips for non-compliance of standards prescribed in the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989.

(iv) A prosecution drive was launched in the month of April 1990. 4901 vehicles have been challenged till January 1992 in accordance with the provisions of Motor Vehicles Act, 1988.

(v) Certificate of fitness of approximately 5330 transport vehicles has been cancelled and their vehicle owners have been instructed to bring their vehicles the prescribed standards before obtaining certificate of fitness.

(d) The steps taken by the government to check pollution in the capital include the following:—

(1) Gross emission standards for all types of on the road vehicles have been notified under the Motor Vehicles Rules 1989, and these have come into force from March 1, 1990.

(2) The Ministry of Surface Transport have advised the various State Transport Directorate including Directorate of Transport, Delhi Administration to enforce the gross emission standards.