

Clearance of Tehri Dam

@1876 SHRI RANJIT SINGH : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news item published in the 'Times of India' of the 2nd November, 1991 captioned 'Tehri Dam was not cleared';

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that Department of Environment had approved the construction of this dam subject to fulfilling of certain conditions;

(c) if so, what were those conditions and what were the reasons for non-fulfilment of these conditions before starting the construction work of the dam;

(d) whether Government have identified the officers responsible for not fulfilling this responsibility; and

(e) if so, what are the names and designations thereof and what action has been taken against them?

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

(c) to (e) Conditional clearance to Tehri Project was granted in July, 1990 subject to submission of requisite Environmental Action Plans in a time-bound manner for implementation *pari-passu* with engineering works. The Environmental Action Plans include preparation of Catchment Area Treatment, Command Area Development, Rehabilitation Master Plan, Survey of flora and fauna for rehabilitation of endangered species, study of water quality and water quality maintenance plan and risk assessment for preparation of Disaster Management Plan etc. The conditions imposed have not been complied with within the stipulated time. The project authorities are presently formulating these action plans or having them prepared by the concerned agencies.

@Previously Unstarred Question No. 1114, transferred from 3rd December, 1991.

Pollution of rivers in Tamil Nadu

1877. SHRI R. T. GOPALAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the names of the polluted rivers in Tamil Nadu;

(b) what is the extent of pollution in each river; and

(c) the steps Government have taken to control the pollution of those rivers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) Based upon the results of the river water quality monitoring programme, the Central Pollution Control Board has identified 13 grossly polluted river stretches in the country. None of these grossly polluted stretches of the rivers is in Tamil Nadu.

(c) The Government has taken the following steps for the prevention, abatement and control of water pollution :

(i) Effluent and emission standards have been prescribed under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

(ii) Networks of ambient air quality and ambient water quality monitoring stations have been set up;

(iii) Environmental guidelines have been evolved for siting and operation of industries;

(iv) Industries have been asked to comply with consent requirements of the State Pollution Control Boards to keep the discharge of effluents and emissions within the stipulated limits;

(v) A time bound action plan for control of highly polluting 17 categories of industries has been prepared in consultation with the State Governments and a Notification has been issued under which polluting units are required to meet the standards by December 31, 1991;

(vi) Fiscal incentives are provided for installation of pollution control equipment;

(vii) A scheme has been initiated to give assistance to cluster of small scale industrial units for setting up common effluent treatment plants.

Programme for reservation of biosphere

1878. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have drawn up a programme to reserve biosphere;

(b) whether Government have formulated any guidelines thereon for the Eighth Plan; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Biosphere Reserve Programme has been launched in 1986 with the objective to preserve the biodiversity in representative ecosystems; to conserve the genetic integrity of plants, animals and micro-organisms; to promote research on ecological conservation; to provide facilities for people-environment interaction and to provide opportunities for people's participation in achieving these objectives. The guidelines prepared for the 8th Plan relate to management activities such as eco-development demonstration projects for ecologically appropriate forestry, social forestry, medicinal plants, horticulture and development of conservation plans for key species, social welfare activities, etc. For research and development, priority areas have been identified in the areas of land use including agriculture and horticultural practices, socio-economic aspects of human settlements, population dynamics of both plant and animal species and their inter-relationships, restoration aspects of endemic, rare and endangered plant and animal species in their original habitats, etc. Specific activities related to education, awareness and training programmes have also been identified.

Aid for pollution control

1879. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that World Bank has sanctioned \$ 1.56 billion aid for control of pollution;

(b) whether control of industrial effluents in the river Damodar and its tributaries are covered therein; and

(c) whether flood-handling capability of Bihar is likely to be part of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) The Government of India has entered into an agreement for financial assistance of about US \$ 155 million from the World Bank, for industrial pollution control.

(b) The Project includes a scheme to provide loans for the setting up of Common Effluent Treatment Plants (CETPs) in clusters of small-scale industrial units, and to large and medium scale industrial units in eight selected sectors, for setting up and upgradation of treatment systems throughout the country. Industries located alongside the river Damodar and its tributaries can also avail the loan under these schemes.

(c) No, Sir.

Afforestation projects in Rajasthan and Haryana

1880. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Japan is financing afforestation projects in Rajasthan and Haryana;

(b) whether there is any similar programme for afforestation in the Chhotanagpur plateau of Bihar; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Japan is providing assistance for the pro-