

- (d) whether the major stake holders have been consulted in this regard; and
- (e) if so, their views and the response of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (e) The Ministry of Environment and Forests has notified the Hazardous Waste (Management, Handling and Transboundary Movement) Rules, 2008, for proper management and handling of hazardous waste which includes e-waste. As per these Rules, only the actual users who are having environmentally sound recycling facilities are granted registration by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) for the purpose of recycling such waste. Guidelines for Environmentally Sound Management of e-waste have been formulated and published after consultation with the major stakeholders. These Guidelines include a reference to the concept of the Extended Producers Responsibility.

#### **Delay in development projects due to environmental clearance**

2440. SHRI MAHMOOD A. MADANI:

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that many developmental projects are being delayed due to unnecessary delay by the Ministry; and
- (b) the details of time bound programme for clearance of projects by the Ministry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) The Environmental Impact assessment Notification of September 2006 provides a time limit of 60 days for conveying Terms of Reference to the applicant on receipt of application with all necessary documents. Further, a time limit of 105 days, after the receipt of the complete application with all necessary documents, has been provided for the appraisal and conveying the decision.

#### **Survey of flora and fauna**

†2441. SHRI SAMAN PATHAK: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any survey has been conducted by Government to identify and preserve flora and fauna on the verge of extinction in the country;
- (b) if so, the details of identified flora and fauna;
- (c) whether it is a fact that Salamanders are now on the verge of extinction and they are found only in few hilly areas like Darjeeling and North-East; and
- (d) if so, whether Government is taking concrete steps to preserve them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) No systematic country-wide survey has been conducted to identify flora and fauna which are on the verge of extinction. The Zoological Survey of India has so far

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

surveyed and documented 91,364 species of fauna, out of which 413 are endangered species. The Botanical Survey of India has documented 45,968 species of flora, out of which 155 are endangered species.

(c) and (d) As per the IUCN Red Data List, Salamander is not on the verge of extinction. The species is distributed in Darjeeling district of West Bengal and some of the North-Eastern States. It is protected under Scheduled II, Part I of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, which are designated as 'Least Concern' according to IUCN Red Data List.

#### **Coal exploitation in degraded forests**

2442. SHRI B.S. GNANADESIKAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to allow coal exploitation in degraded forest lands of the country;

(b) if so, whether Government has analyzed the impact of deforestation of forest areas, since 60 per cent of the total forest land are degraded forests; and

(c) the details of actions proposed by Government to protect/forests in the country, in case of coal exploitation in degraded forest land?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (c) The coal is extracted from the Coal Bearing Areas irrespective of reserve / protected / degraded forests or non-forest lands as per the requirement of the nation and economic viability of extraction. However, prior approval of the Central Government is required for mining of coal in the forest areas under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. The provisions of the Act and the mechanism established there under permits, diversion of forest land only when no alternatives were available. The land use for different purposes is also optimized. Further, the diversion of forest land for non-forest purposes is permitted after stipulating commensurate mitigative measures such as compensatory afforestation to reduce the adverse impact of the mining and other developmental activities on environment and ecology of the area. In addition, phased reclamation of the mined out areas is also stipulated in approval orders.

#### **Death of tigers in Ranthambhor Tiger Reserve**

†2443. SHRI OM PRAKASH MATHUR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of tiger deaths in Ranthambhor Tiger Reserve in Rajasthan during the last one year and the reasons for their death; and

(b) the number of tigers relocated to Sariska Wildlife sanctuary from Ranthambhor during the last one year and the future course of action in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) During the last year, mortality of one tigress on 01.09.2008 has been reported by the State in the Ranthambhore Tiger Reserve, due to territorial infighting.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.