

December 2009 for adoption at the fifteenth Conference of Parties (COP-15) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and fifth Meeting of Parties (MOP-5) to the Kyoto Protocol.

Damage to environment and ecology

888. SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN:

SHRI D. RAJA:

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

(a) whether there has been a feeling that the present National Environment Policy, 2006 and Environmental Impact Assessment Notification, 2006 are causing damage to the environment and ecology; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) The National Environment Policy seeks to extend the existing policies for environmental management for ensuring sustainable development by integrating the environmental concerns in the developmental projects. It recognizes that while conservation of environmental resources is necessary to secure livelihoods and well being of all, the most secure basis for conservation is to ensure that people dependent on particular resources obtain better livelihoods from the fact of conservation, than from degradation of resources. The policy also seeks to stimulate partnership of different stakeholders in harnessing their respective resources and strength for environmental management.

The Environment Impact Assessment Notification, 2006 requires developmental projects/activities/processes, listed therein to obtain prior environmental clearance under the provisions thereof so as to ensure that environmental concerns associated with these projects are duly integrated and addressed during different stages of project cycle. Ministry of Environment & Forests is not aware of any such feeling that the National Environment Policy, 2006 and Environment Impact Assessment Notification, 2006 are causing damage to the environment and ecology.

(b) Does not arise in view of the reply to para (a) above.

Ganga and Yamuna Action Plans

889. SHRI K.E. ISMAIL:

SHRI D. RAJA:

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

(a) whether Government has made any assessment of working of Ganga and Yamuna Action Plans and how far these have been effective in checking pollution of these two dying rivers in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the corrective measures proposed to be taken to rescue these dying rivers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) Ganga Action Plan (GAP) Phase I was launched as a centrally

funded scheme in 1985 with the objective of improving the water quality of the Ganga to acceptable standards. Various pollution abatement works like Interception & Diversion of sewage, setting up of sewage treatment plants, low cost sanitation works, crematoria works, etc. were taken up. GAP Phase - II which covered the tributaries of Ganga namely, Yamuna, Gomti, Damodar and Mahananda, besides Ganga, was approved in stages from 1993-1996. GAP Phase II was merged with the National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) in December, 1996. The total expenditure incurred for river Ganga under the GAP Phase -I & II so far, is Rs.816.47 crore. Sewage treatment capacity of 1007 million liters per day (mild) has been created.

The first phase of the Yamuna Action Plan (YAP) for the abatement of pollution of river Yamuna was started in April, 1993 in 21 towns of the three States of UP, Delhi & Haryana. A total expenditure of Rs. 682 crore was incurred. The second Phase of YAP commenced in December, 2004 at an approved cost of Rs, 624 crore. Till March, 2009, an expenditure of Rs 190.15 crore has been incurred. Sewage treatment capacity of 753.25 mild has been created for the river Yamuna under the Plan,

Independent studies have been carried out from time to time to evaluate the impact of the river conservation plans. Studies have been conducted by a group of independent experts (1995); University of Bath and Metroeconomica, United Kingdom and the Institute of Economic Growth, New Delhi (1995-97); and Alternate Hydro Energy Centre IIT, Roorkee (2002). The studies have made recommendations for improving the performance of the Schemes by continuous river quality monitoring, proper operation and maintenance of assets, upgradation of treatment technologies/designs etc.

The water quality monitoring carried out by reputed institutions of the country like IIT, Kanpur, BHEL, Patna University, etc. indicates that, water quality of the river Ganga conforms to the prescribed standards in terms of key indicators namely, Bio-chemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) and Dissolved Oxygen (DO) at most of the locations except, in the stretch between Kannauj and Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh.

As per the water quality monitoring undertaken through independent institutions, the water quality in the stretch of the river Yamuna from Tajewala to Palla in Haryana is found to be within the prescribed limits. However, the stretch of the river in the vicinity of Delhi (downstream of Wazirabad barrage to upstream of Okhla barrage) and parts of Uttar Pradesh exceeds the standards in terms of Bio-chemical Oxygen Demand of 3.0 milligram per litre (mg/l), mainly due to significant increase in pollution load and lack of fresh water in the river during lean period.

The Central Government, by a Notification dated 20.2.2009, has set up the 'National Ganga River Basin Authority' (NGRBA) as an empowered planning, financing, monitoring and coordinating authority for the Ganga River. The objective of the Authority is to ensure effective abatement of pollution and conservation of the river Ganga by adopting a holistic approach with the river basin as the unit of planning. The functions of the Authority include all measures necessary for planning and

execution of programmes for abatement of pollution in the Ganga including augmentation of sewerage infrastructure, collection, analysis and dissemination of information relating to environmental pollution in Ganga; investigations and research regarding problems of environmental pollution and conservation of Ganga; and, promotion of water conservation practices including recycling and reuse, rain water harvesting, and decentralised sewage treatment systems.

The Government of NCT of Delhi has taken up sewerage and sewage treatment works under other schemes to fully address the pollution load being discharged into Yamuna. The Delhi Jal Board has prepared schemes for laying of interceptor sewers along three major drains namely Najafgarh, Shahdara and Supplementary, construction of sewage treatment plants of 318 mild, interception of drains and rehabilitation of trunk sewers, laying of sewerage system in unsewered colonies and rural areas and desilting of peripheral and internal sewers.

Panna tiger reserve

890. SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV:

SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR:

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

- (a) whether Panna Tiger Reserve has no tiger at present;
- (b) if so, the details in this regard and the reasons therefor;
- (c) the details of the amount spent on Project Tiger since its inception till date, year-wise and sanctuary-wise, and the achievements made thereby;
- (d) whether disappearance of tigers in Panna and Sariska Tiger Reserves is the result of poaching; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the action taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) Tigers have become locally extinct in Panna largely due to poaching as pointed out in the report of the Special Investigating Team constituted for ascertaining the causative factors for disappearance of tigers from the Panna Tiger Reserve. At present, the reserve has only two translocated tigresses. The disappearance of tigers from Panna was confirmed through an assessment done by the Wildlife Institute of India.

(c) The total allocation made to Project Tiger Scheme since its inception from 1973-74 till 2009-10 amounts to Rs. 68267.84 lakhs (Rs. 682.68 crores). Details of allocation provided to tiger States under the ongoing Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Project Tiger during the last five years and current financial year are given in the statement (see below). Project Tiger has put the endangered tiger on an assured path of recovery by saving it from extinction, as revealed by the recent findings of the All India tiger estimation using the refined methodology. This independent report highlights the achievements of Project Tiger by showing that viable tiger population exists only in tiger reserve areas, which are under the jurisdiction of Project Tiger, while the status of outside populations are highly depleted.