

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) with the help of concerned State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs) and Pollution Control Committees (PCCs) is monitoring the ambient air across the country at 346 stations covering 130 cities and towns in 28 States and 04 Union Territories. The data is compiled and processed by the CPCB leading to air pollution control measures by the concerned agencies, *i.e.*, CPCB, SPCBs, Municipalities, Transport Departments, State Governments, etc.

The Government has taken various measures to control air pollution which *interalia* includes implementation of notified emission standards for industries and generator sets. Implementation of action plans for air quality management in 16 cities apart from Delhi is being undertaken.

Implementation of emission norms for new and in-use vehicles and fuel quality in accordance with the Road Map of the Auto Fuel Policy, introduction of cleaner fuel in public transport and strengthening of mass transportation are underway.

(b) and (c) The Government has recently announced in the Budget 2009-10 establishment of 'Gas Highways' which are long distance highways to facilitate a National Gas Grid. Setting up of 'Gas Highways' would pave the path for increasing the availability of natural gas infrastructure in all parts of the country, setting up of CNG stations along highways and to contain air pollution due to vehicles.

As a pilot project, GAIL GAS, a subsidiary company of the GAIL (India) Limited, has planned to set-up CNG stations at Panvel (Mumbai - Pune Highway) and Kovvur (Vijayawada -Rajahmundry Highway). The said CNG stations are proposed to be commissioned by the end of 2nd quarter of year 2009-10. However, it is difficult to allocate a time line for completion of this project.

Relocation of villagers from tiger reserves

1660. SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 1824, given in the Rajya Sabha on the 6th December, 2007 and state:

(a) whether Government has completed the enhancing of the relocation/rehabilitation package for villages in the core areas of tiger reserves; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The ongoing Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Project Tiger has been revised to include, *interalia*, an enhanced village relocation package (from Rs. 1.00 lakh/per family to Rs. 10.00 lakhs/per family), for relocation of villages from the core/critical tiger habitat of a Tiger Reserve, identified under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 towards providing inviolate space to tiger population.