

and ex-army personnel/homeguards.

(c) and (d) Based on consultations with officers from tiger range States, guidelines have been issued for raising, arming and deploying a Special Tiger Protection Force in 13 tiger reserves, with 100% Central Assistance under the ongoing Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Project Tiger.

Ganga River Basin Authority

1672. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA:

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

(a) whether Government has set up a corpus of Rs. 1000 crore for the Ganga River Basin Authority;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a large amount spent by Government for implementation of the Ganga Action Plan has gone waste;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) to what extent the creation of corpus fund would help in cleaning Ganga?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a), (b) and (e) The Central Government by a Notification dated 20.02.2009, has set up the 'National Ganga River Basin Authority' (NGRBA) as an empowered planning, financing, monitoring and coordinating authority for the Ganga River, 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 Notification provides for a Corpus of funds to be provided by the Central Government for implementing the projects, programmes and other activities of the NGRBA. No decision has been taken on the amount of funds to be provided for the Corpus.

(c) and (d) 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 schemes including Interception & Diversion of sewage and setting up of sewage treatment plants 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 on conservation of river Ganga under the GAP Phase - I & II so far, is Rs. 816.47 crore. Sewage treatment capacity of 1007 million liters per day (mld) has been created.

Water quality monitoring carried out by reputed institutions such as, 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. However, the levels of fecal coliforms are reported to be exceeding the maximum permissible limit at a number of monitoring stations along the river Ganga.

Lower Plain Ganga Project

1673. SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Ministry has approved the Lower Plain Ganga Project;
- (b) whether the local residents have approached the Ministry against the project since majority of gram sabhas have opposed the project; and
- (c) whether the present Government would review the approval in this context?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) Yes Sir. Lower Painganga (not Plain Ganga) Project in district Yavatmal, Maharashtra was accorded Environmental and in principle Forest Clearance in May, 2007 and February, 2009 respectively.

(b) Some representations were received from Non Governmental Organisations (NGOs) such as Nimna Painganga Dharan Virodhi Sangharsh Satmiti, Yavatmal Zilla Vikas Manch Yavatmal, and Lower Painganga Project Nirman Samasya Niwaran & Punarwasan Sanstha with differing views, both for and against, the project.

(c) No Sir. There is no such proposal.

Emission reduction

1674. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

SHRI N.K.SINGH:

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

- (a) whether Government has openly rejected any emission reduction target period by developed countries;
- (b) whether Government has also decided to implement the National Action Plan on Climate;
- (c) if so, the details of modalities worked out for proper implementation of the action plan;
- (d) whether Government proposes to seek help of developed countries for reduction of emission levels and to implement the action plan on climate; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) There is no obligation for India under the provisions of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and its Kyoto Protocol to take any emission reduction target. On the other hand, India has urged developed countries to take deep and ambitious