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18	Uttar Pradesh	Yamuna, Ganga & Gomti
19	Uttanchal	Ganga
20	West Bengal	Ganga, Damodar & Mahananda

Clearance to Infrastructural Projects

907. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is proposed to provide speedy clearance atleast the infrastructural projects;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if no, the reasons therefor?

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 stipulates a time limit of 60 days for conveying the 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. No infrastructure projects are pending beyond this time limit.

- (c) Does not arise in view of reply to paras (a) and (b) above.

Protection of wild life

908. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of important mammal species of wild life in the Reserve Forests and the numerous threats faced by wild life, with particular reference to Lions, Tigers and Elephants;
- (b) what are the various measures undertaken or being undertaken to protect wild life in our country, with special reference to Tamil Nadu; and
- (c) whether they are adequate and effective?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) The important mammalian species found in the Reserve Forests are lion, tiger, leopard, elephant, rhinoceros, bison, wild buffalo, sambhar, blackbuck, chinkara, bear, lion tail macaque etc. Major threats to wildlife are poaching, habitat loss and destruction, encroachment, man-animal conflict etc.

(b) and (c) A number of effective steps have been taken by the Government for conservation of Wildlife in the country including Tamil Nadu which are as follows:

1. Threatened species of wildlife are included in the Schedules of the Wildlife (Protection), Act, 1972, thereby according them the highest degree of protection.

2. The Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 has been amended from time to time and made more stringent against wildlife related offences.
3. A network of Protected Areas has been established to conserve wildlife and their habitats including rare animals.
4. Wildlife Crime Control Bureau has been set up to check illegal trade in wildlife and its products.
5. The State/UT Governments have been requested to strengthen the field formations and intensify patrolling in and around wildlife rich areas.
6. Financial and technical assistance is extended to the State/UT Governments under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes, viz, 'Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats', 'Project Tiger' and 'Project Elephant' for providing better protection and conservation of wildlife.
7. Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme-'Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats', a new component has been added for initiating "Recovery Programme for critically endangered species and their habitats" during the 11th Five Year Plan period.

Yamuna Action Plan

909. SHRI O.T. LEPCHA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Yamuna Action Plan has failed to achieve the desired result;
- (b) if so, the amount of money spent on the plan so far;
- (c) the reasons for its failure to achieve the desired result; and
- (d) the steps taken to modify the Plan and otherwise, to achieve the desired result?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (d) Implementation of river pollution abatement works is an ongoing and collective effort of the Central and the State Governments. The water quality of river Yamuna is within the prescribed limits in the State of Haryana. The water quality, however, has not shown the desired improvement in the Delhi and in parts of U.P. due to a large gap between the requirement and availability of sewage treatment capacity together with lack of availability of fresh water during the lean season.

An expenditure of Rs. 872.15 crore has so far been incurred under the Yamuna Action Plan (YAP). Sewage treatment capacity of 753.25 million liters per day (mld) was created under YAP-I, while treatment capacity of 189 mld (in Delhi and Agra) and rehabilitation of 324 mld of existing treatment capacity in Delhi is envisaged under YAP-II