

Government was incomplete and accordingly, the State Government was requested to submit complete compliance report which is still awaited.

National Green Tribunal

1670. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has mooted a proposal to set up a National Green Tribunal, to deal with civil issues related to environment and forests;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the exact number of cases pertaining to environmental and forest disputes pending in courts; and

(d) to what extent the creation of the Tribunal is likely to assist in disposing of cases relating to environment and forests?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Bill for establishment of the National Green Tribunal (NGT) is under finalization.

(c) As environmental cases are inter-sectoral and cross-cutting in nature it is difficult to exactly quantify the same.

(d) The NGT intends to reduce the load of environmental cases, of civil nature, pending in higher courts and to help in speedy disposal of such cases. Since the NGT is proposed to have Judicial Members as well as Expert Members, it is likely to result in effective disposal of environmental cases which involve multi-disciplinary issues.

Van Gujjars in Tiger Reserves

1671. SHRI N.K. SINGH:

SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA:

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

(a) whether Government has decided to depute trained Van Gujjars' and 'Villagers', instead of police personnel, in various tiger reserves and other wildlife sanctuaries all over the country to protect tigers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has held consultations with State Governments/Senior Forest Officers in providing security and safety to tigers; and

(d) if so, the outcome of such consultations and the manner in which tiger reserves and wildlife sanctuaries would be protected?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) Funding support under the ongoing Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Project Tiger is provided to tiger States for antipoaching operations, *inter alia*, involving local people

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