

Environment Impact Assessment Notification, 2006, *vide* S.O. 195(E) dated 19th January, 2009 for obtaining comments / suggestions from all concerned. The proposed amendments, which are both clarificatory in nature and also to make the notification more comprehensive and rationalized, *inter-alia* include: (i) enhancement of threshold limit for construction projects from 20,000 sq.m. to 50,000 sq.m, (ii) modernization and expansion projects without increase in pollution load to be exempt from the provision of EIA Notification, 2006, (iii) prospecting of minerals to be exempt from EIA Notification, 2006, (iv) biomass based power plants upto 50 MW to be exempt from EIA, (v) category 'B' projects to be exempt from scoping for three years, and (vi) proactive / voluntary disclosure of information relating to grant of environmental clearance for ensuring effective implementation and enforcement of environmental regulation through the creations of societal vigil.

(b) and (c) The Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) reports prepared for obtaining environmental clearance comprehensively address various issues relating to different components of environment including wildlife and natural eco-systems. The terms of reference for undertaking detailed EIA studies are prescribed by the respective sectoral multi-disciplinary Expert Appraisal Committees taking into account the project location, the proposed developmental activity and the anticipated impacts thereof.

Wild buffaloes

1668.SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are only 5-6 wild buffaloes in the Udanti-Sitanadi Tiger Reserve;

(b) the details of wildlife census reports, including those of wild buffaloes, since 2000;

(c) the reasons is why Government failed to conserve wild buffaloes;

(d) whether it is also a fact that all the remaining Wild Buffaloes in the Udanti area have now been kept inside enclosures and if so, under plan of action prepared; and

(e) the details of the action plan alongwith the necessary reports relating thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) As per information received from the Government of Chhattisgarh, presently there are seven wild buffaloes (five adult male, one sub adult male and one adult female) in Udanti Wildlife Sanctuary. However, there are no wild buffaloes in Sitanadi Wildlife Sanctuary.

(b) The estimated population of wildlife in Udanti Wildlife Sanctuary since 2001, including wild buffaloes, is given in the Statement (*See below*).

(c) The reasons for the decline in the population of wild buffalo are mainly attributed to habitat loss, biotic pressure and human-animal conflict.

(d) and (e) No, Sir, As informed by the State Government, only one female wild buffalo with her sub adult calf and one adult male are presently kept inside the enclosure for breeding purpose. The

breeding programme of wild buffalo in Udanti Wildlife Sanctuary has been taken up under the wild buffalo recovery plan as recommended by the Wild Buffalo Task Force constituted by the State Government in compliance of the direction given by the Central Empowered Committee (CEC) of Hon'ble Supreme Court.

Statement

*Estimated population of wildlife including wild buffaloes
in Udanti Wildlife Sanctuary*

Sl. No.	Species	Number (over the years)				
		2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
1.	Tiger	26	17	12	11	12
2.	Panther	109	36	24	26	23
3.	Cheetal	5352	509	370	385	716
4.	Sambhar	541	262	185	205	256
5.	Barking Deer	590	256	128	142	450
6.	Neelgai	301	160	150	145	126
7.	Gour	564	40	40	44	40
8.	Wild Buffalo **	72	72	77	67	61
9.	Wild Boar	170	497	-	-	998
10.	Wild Dog	25	-	20	30	36

**As per the information received from the State Government, at present, there are 7 wild buffaloes in the Sanctuary.

Forest clearance to Kerala

1669.SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Kerala Government had requested for Kuttiadi Augmentation Forest Clearance Scheme during June, 2005 along with compliance report and the clarifications regarding this had been done subsequently;

(b) if so, the details of action taken for the above stage-2 forest clearance;

(c) whether positive steps would be taken, to grant the above clearance;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. However, the compliance report submitted by the Kerala