

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.

Legal provisions against exploding crackers

2678. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether, in view of the fact that the practice of exploding crackers, bombs etc. on religious occasions like Diwali and on weddings is on the increase in the country, thereby, aggravating the population level quite often, there is any proposal under Governments consideration, in consultation with State Governments, to make the legal provision for strict action against those indulging in such practices; and

(b) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) The Hon'ble Supreme Court *vide* its order, dated 18th July, 2005, in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 72 of 1998 read with Civil appeal No. 3735 of 2005 arising out of SLP (C) No. 2185/2003, has ordered that there shall be complete ban on the bursting of sound emitting firecrackers between 10 pm and 6 am. The Hon'ble Apex Court has further said that it is not necessary to impose restrictions as to time on bursting of colour/light emitting firecrackers. The said orders are implemented by concerned Authorities notified under the Noise Pollution (Regulation and Control) Rules, 2000 across the country.

Cleaning of Ganga River

2679. SHRIMATI KUSUM RAI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has extended the target to clean river Ganga by 2020;

(b) if so, the details of the course of action;

(c) whether due to sewage of cities along the river and industrial waste/pollution Ganga has become a dirty drain;

(d) whether it is a fact that sewage treatment capacity in different cities of Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal are not sufficient and in accordance with the need; and

(e) if so, the details of the steps Government has taken/proposes to take to make Ganga pollution free, till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (e) Ganga Action Plan was launched as a centrally funded scheme in 1985 with the objective of improving the water quality of the Ganga. Various pollution abatement