

due to rolling down of muck is only 15 Bighas and not 115 Bighas. Damage bills were issued to the user agency from time to time and same were realized during 11/2006, 01/2007, 05/2007 and 10/2007.

(c) In most of the road construction work the muck has been dumped on the designated lumping sites duly approved by the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India. However, in certain areas, due to topography and rock formation, some muck has rolled down on the lower side. The area where such incident occurred is almost a vertical rocky cliff, where it is not possible to hold all the muck. Since it is a rocky cliff, there is hardly any vegetation except for some grasses and shrubs growing on the natural crevices. The trees damaged and area affected by the rolling muck has been accounted for by issuing damage bills.

(d) Yes, the inquiry was conducted and the company has been penalised for all the work done in contravention to permission accorded by Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India.

(e) Damage bill as per prevailing market rates of trees and muck dumping along with 100% penalty amounting Rs.1,18,46,866/- has been raised against the user agency i.e. M/s Everest Power Private Limited and the user agency has released the payments.

Eco-system development scheme

3444. SHRI RANJITSINH VIJAYSINH MOHITE-PATIL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of eco-system development scheme running with the involvement of private people;

(b) the number of projected schemes implemented in the country, especially in Maharashtra; and

(c) the obstacles/reasons for non-implementation of the above said scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (c) There is no specific eco-system development scheme running with the involvement of private people. However, the Ministry of Environment and Forests is implementing the National Afforestation Programme aimed at regeneration of degraded forests and adjoining areas, through a two tier institutional set-up of Forest Development Agencies (FDAs) at the district level and Joint Forest Management Committees at the village level. There are 795 FDA projects in the country including 47 in the State of Maharashtra.

Construction in non-forest area by Vedanta Resources

3445. SHRI N.K. SINGH:

SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

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