

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH) : (a) No proposal relating to environmental developmental works in West Bengal is pending consideration in the Ministry of Environment & Forests.

(b) During last two years an amount of Rs 171.975 lakhs has been released to Sunderbans Biosphere Reserve. Additionally, the revised cost estimate of Rs 135.44 crores for Common Effluent Treatment Plant (CETP) Project at Calcutta Leather Complex under Ganga Action Plan Phase-II has been approved in November, 2007. The said project is funded on 50:50 cost sharing basis with the State Government.

**National Network for research on climate changes**

322. SHRI K.E. ISMAIL : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had formed a national network of 127 educational institutions to conduct research on climate changes and to provide solutions to farmers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this national network has submitted any report; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action being taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH) : (a) and (b) The Ministry of Environment is currently engaged in the preparation of India's Second National Communication to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. A network of 127 institutions has been engaged countrywide belonging to Universities, Research and Development Institutions, autonomous institutions of the government, Non governmental organization and private institutions for studies on various aspects of climate change. These include greenhouse gas emissions of anthropogenic origin from sectors such as Energy, Industry, Agriculture, Forestry and Waste, Assessment and impact of projected climate change on key sectors such as Agriculture, Water, Natural ecosystems, Health, Extreme climate events, etc. The findings of the study on climate change scenarios would be relevant for agriculture sector and farmers.

(c) and (d) The network has not submitted any report

**Construction of a new dam in Mullaperiyar**

323. SHRI K.E. ISMAIL :

SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN :

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

(a) whether Government has given permission to Kerala Government for undertaking a forest survey for construction of a new dam in the Mullaperiyar reservoir area; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH) : (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The Ministry of Environment & Forests on the recommendation of Standing Committee of National Board for Wildlife in its 16th Meeting on 16.09.2009 has granted permission for undertaking survey and investigation involving an area of 2.5 hectare only against the area of 92,500 ha of Periyar Tiger Reserve subject to compliance of certain conditions as envisaged by the Chief Wildlife Warden, Kerala. However, no such proposal from Kerala Government seeking permission for undertaking forest survey for construction of a new dam in the Mullaperiyar reservoir area has been received under the provisions of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

#### **National Environment Protection Authority**

324. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has proposed to set up a statutory regulatory body the National Environment Protection Authority (NEPA) to grant clearances and enforce regulation under the Environment Protection Act, 1986;

(b) if so, whether the proposed regulatory body would function under the appellate supervision by a National Green Tribunal;

(c) if so, whether the Central Pollution Control Board and its state units would continue to function under the proposed NEPA; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH) : (a) to (d) The proposal to set up a National Environment Protection Authority (NEPA) to strengthen compliance and enforcement of environmental statutes and to improve environmental planning and management is in a conceptual stage. A discussion paper on the proposed NEPA has been uploaded in the Ministry's Website and suggestions/comments are being received from various stakeholders. The proposal is in a primary stage and the configuration and scope of the proposed Authority is yet to be finalized.

#### **Introduction of Bt. Brinjal**

325. SHRI P. RAJEEV : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had made any scientific studies on introduction of Bt. Brinjalus into Indian market;

(b) if so, whether the expert committee made effective consultation with the scientists, agricultural experts, farmers organizations, consumer groups and NGOs; and