

Conservation of rivers is an ongoing and collective effort of the Central and State Governments. River conservation activities such as creation of civic infrastructure for sewage management and disposal are also being implemented under other Central schemes, such as Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission, Urban Infrastructure Development Scheme for Small and Medium Towns, as well as under State schemes.

#### **Danger to existence of Lakshadweep islands**

1075. SHRI O.T. LEPCHA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the coral of Lakshadweep islands are dying causing danger to the existence of the islands as reported under a study; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the efforts made to arrest the problem to ensure sustainability of the islands?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) According to a modeling study by Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute, Kochi; the reef building corals may not be dominant in Lakshadweep Seas after 2030-2040. The study has indicated that there is no evidence to state that the corals will totally die off and there is also no evidence that there is any danger to the existence of the islands. The study analysis was not based on field observations but on model and projection only.

The Ministry has identified four National Coral Reef Areas *viz:* (i) Gulf of Mannar, (ii) Gulf of Kutch, (iii) Lakshadweep and (iv) Andman and Nicobar Islands for their conservation and management. It provides financial assistance to the State/UT Forest Departments of all the four identified Coral Reef areas for implementation of approved Management Action Plans for conservation and management of corals and coral reefs. The Coastal Regulation Zone Notification (1991), as amended subsequently, recognizes the Corals and Coral Reef areas as ecologically sensitive and categorizes them as CRZ-I (i) and some species of corals are also included in the Schedules of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, thereby according them high degree of protection.

#### **Upgrading of Panna National Park in Madhya Pradesh**

†1076. SHRI BALAVANT ALIAS BAL APTE:

SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:

SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE:

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

(a) whether the Panna National Park in Madhya Pradesh is going to be upgraded to international standards;

(b) if so, whether several new animals would be brought in this park under this project;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether several other changes are being made in this park to make it of international level; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (e) After the local extinction of tigers from the Panna Tiger Reserve of Madhya Pradesh, tiger reintroduction has been taken up to rebuild the population, besides supporting initiatives in the said reserve under the ongoing Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Project Tiger to strengthen tiger conservation.

#### **Control of illegal trade in wildlife**

1077. SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Wildlife Crime Control Bureau is a multi-disciplinary agency;

(b) the steps proposed for control of illegal trade in wildlife and to protect the wildlife from poachers;

(c) the details of the cases dealt by the Bureau in Assam and the results thereof; and

(d) the details of cases of illegal trading of wildlife and poaching in various National Parks in Assam with redressal measures taken by the authorities concerned?

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

(b) The steps taken by the Central Government to protect wildlife and control illegal trade, *inter alia*, include the following:—

1. The Central Government has enacted the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 to deal with the issues of wildlife crime. Stringent penalties are imposed on the offenders for the contravention of the provisions of the Act.
2. Wildlife Crime Control Bureau, with a network of five Regional and three Sub Regional Offices, has been set up to control wildlife crime.
3. Training courses are conducted for various enforcement agencies like Customs, Central Police Forces etc. for better appreciation of illegal wildlife trade.
4. Wildlife offences involving a total value of Rs. 30.00 lakhs or more have been brought under the purview of the Prevention of Money-Laundering Act, 2002.
5. Financial support is provided under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes — *Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats, Project Tiger and Project Elephant*, to State/UT