

- (b) if so, the reasons for allowing Lafarge India to resume mining; and
- (c) whether there is any scheme to rehabilitate the tribals displaced because of mining in the forest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (c) The Central Government has accorded approval for the diversion of 116.589 ha of forest land for Lime Stone Mining & other Ancillary activities in favour of M/s Lafarge Umiam Mining Private Ltd. (LUMPL) in Sohra Tehsil, Khasi Hills Division of Meghalaya stipulating certain conditions like payment of Net Present Value, payment for Compensatory Afforestation on equivalent non-forest land, Catchment Area Treatment Plan, Comprehensive Bio-diversity Management Plan, Recognition of Forest Rights of the Tribals and other non-traditional Forest Dwellers, etc. Only after compliance of these conditions, allowing mining by M/s Lafarge Umiam Mining Private Ltd. (LUMPL) will be considered.

**Power generation projects on Alaknanda and Bhagirathi river**

†4042. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that approval for and construction of a large number of power generation projects on Alaknanda and Bhagirathi rivers has led to water shortage in the local areas thereby a big impact on environment is estimated;
- (b) if so, the facts in this regard; and
- (c) the number of construction projects sanctioned on the above rivers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) Ministry of Power (MoP) had constituted a High Level Expert Group (HLEG) to examine the technical issues involved for ensuring required flow in the river Bhagirathi, to keep the river live and to ensure perennial environmental flow in the river. The HLEG recommended release of 4 cumec water as perennial environmental flow for the river Bhagirathi and release of 15 cumec on special religious occasions from Loharinag Pala barrage. However, in view of the sentiments attached to the river Bhagirathi, 16 cumec water would be released from Loharinag Pala perennially or as may be decided by the National Ganga River Basin Authority (NGRBA).

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) The Environment clearances have been granted to five hydro electric projects on the Alaknanda river and six such projects on the Bhagirathi river under the Environment Impact Assessment Notifications, of 1994 and 2006.

**Green vehicles in the country**

4043. SHRI SANJAY RAUT:

SHRI GOVINDRAO WAMANRAO ADIK:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that pollution level and energy bill are increasing day by day due to growth in various types of vehicles in the country;

(b) if so, Government's response to overcome such unwanted situation;

(c) whether Government is considering to issue guidelines / rules for Automobile industry to produce more fuel efficient and green vehicles in the country to reduce fuel bill and pollution level in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) Growth in the number of vehicles in metro cities has been a major contributory factor of vehicular pollution in the country. The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) is monitoring ambient air quality at 365 locations (including 35 metro-cities) in respect of Sulphur Dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>), Nitrogen Dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) and Respirable Suspended Particulate Matter (RSPM). The ambient air quality data in respect of RSPM in 35 cities indicate increasing trends during 2007-09 is given in Statement (*See below*).

(c) to (e) The Government, under the Auto Fuel Policy 2003, has provided a road map for emission regulations up to 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2010. As per the road map, BS IV emission regulations in 13 cities have been implemented from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2010. These emission norms are very stringent and the emission from the vehicles will be reduced by up to 80 – 90% in comparison to the vehicles produced prior to April 2000. The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has set up a Review Committee to review the Auto Fuel Policy. The Standing Committee on Emission under the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways had set up a sub-committee to study the fuel efficiency regulations of the vehicles and have submitted its report. In addition, the following steps have been taken to contain vehicular pollution as well as to reduce the fuel capacity: