

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Environment and Forests does not maintain records of people displaced from forests. However, after promulgation of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 with effect from 25.10.1980, while processing the proposals for diversion of forest land for non-forest purposes under the provision of this Act, due emphasis is laid on the rehabilitation of persons getting displaced, including the tribals, on account of proposed diversion of forest land.

(c) Under the provisions of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, forest land is diverted for non-forestry purpose and as such no improvement in forest wealth and environment is expected. However, in the cases of displacement of villages from the core zones of Protected Areas, adequate provision is made for their satisfactory rehabilitation. Such displacement has invariably resulted into better management of the National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries.

Sufferings of wildlife due to construction work of resorts and hotels

†4048. SHRI KAPTAN SINGH SOLANKI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware of the fact that the wildlife is suffering due to construction work of resort and hotels going on around the Jim Corbet National Park;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has thought of rein in such hotels and resort on Central level;
- (d) whether Government rules are being violated in such construction works; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken by Government in this matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) Reports relating to disturbance of wildlife habitat/corridor around Corbett Tiger Reserve on account of tourism infrastructure have come to light.

(c) to (e) The State has been advised for regulating the tourism related commercial activities in the area, besides declaring the surrounds of Corbett as ecologically sensitive under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. Further, guidelines have been issued to phase out tourism activities from the

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

core/ critical tiger habitats, while creating buffer in its peripheral areas to mainstream tiger concerns *vis-à-vis* the provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. Action has been taken for evolving a set of ecotourism guidelines to elicit local public support for tiger conservation.

Disposal of medical wastes

4049. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has issued directives that all medical institutions must have invertors, auto cloves or microwaves to destroy infectious and hazardous wastes in scientific manner;

(b) whether it is a fact that a deadline was set for the hospitals to acquire such equipments by 2002;

(c) whether it is a fact that 85 per cent of hospitals and medical institutions have breached and ignored this deadline with cooperation of authorities; and;

(d) if so, what action would be taken to enquire into such violations and set a time-bound target for its re-implementation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) As per provisions of the Bio-Medical Waste (Management and Handling) Rules, 1998, every occupier generating bio-medical waste, which include hospitals, nursing homes, clinics, etc., shall set up requisite bio-medical waste treatment facilities such as incinerators, autodaves, microwave systems, etc., for treatment of waste, or ensure requisite treatment of waste at a common waste treatment facility. The deadline for setting up such equipments/treatment facilities was 31st December, 2002.

(c) and (d) The State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs) and the Pollution Control Committees (PCCs) of Union Territories are the 'Prescribed Authorities' responsible for enforcement of the provisions of these Rules and to ensure that the occupier of an Health Care Establishment treats the bio-medical waste either in its own premises or in a common waste treatment facility. In case there are any violations of compliance to the Rules, the SPCBs/PCCs are required to take necessary actions against the defaulters. The Government has not received any report regarding breaching of the deadline by 85% hospitals and medical institutions.