

(b) to (d) A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is signed between the Ministry of Environment and Forests, State Pollution Control Board and the entrepreneur before release of financial assistance for setting up the TSDF. One of the conditions of MoU is to constitute a committee to monitor progress of the facility. Further release of financial assistance is made only on submission of audited Utilization Certificate and physical progress report by the respective State Pollution Control Board.

Violation of Forest Rights Act

4034. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether two years after the implementation of the Forest Rights Act of 2008, most States have failed to notify the critical wildlife areas and have, instead, permitted projects in these areas;

(b) whether the National Board on Wildlife has informed the Prime Minister that illegal mining and encroachment is creating a grave danger to wildlife in those areas;

(c) whether any action has been taken against the erring States; and

(d) if so, the current status of these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) Proposal for declaration of Critical Wildlife Habitats are forwarded to the Central Government by the State Governments after due consultation with all the stakeholders including Gram Sabhas. A Central Level Committee thereafter scrutinizes the proposals and recommends to the Central Government, for notification of the Critical Wildlife Habitats. So far, no proposals complete in all respects have been received from the State Governments and no Critical Wildlife Habitats have been declared. Therefore, question of permitting project in such areas does not arise.

(b) Yes, Sir. These issues came up for discussion during the 5th meeting of National Board for Wildlife held on 18th March, 2010 under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Prime Minister.

(c) and (d) There is a prescribed procedure before taking up developmental projects in Protected Areas. As per the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 such developmental project proposals require recommendation of the State Board for Wildlife in case of Wildlife Sanctuaries and National Board for Wildlife in case of National Parks. Further, as per orders of Hon'ble Supreme Court all such projects require recommendation of Standing Committee of National Board for Wildlife and

subsequent approval of Hon'ble Supreme Court. There are no reports in the Ministry to indicate that the State Governments have not followed the above procedures. In cases of illegal mining etc, concerned State Governments have been advised to take appropriate action in such matters as per existing provision of law.

Pollution of rivers by private companies

4035. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to enhance the punishment for polluting the rivers by private companies; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) No, Sir. There is no proposal under consideration of the Ministry of Environment and Forests to enhance punishment for polluting the rivers by private companies.

(b) Does not arise.

Audit of water pollution

4036. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to conduct audit of water pollution; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) As per information provided by the office of the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India, it has selected the topic "Water Pollution in India" for conducting all India review during 2010-11. As per the provisions of CAG (Duties, Powers and Conditions of Service) Act 1971, the scope and extent of audit would be decided by the CAG.

Strategy for climate change

4037. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and China decided to adopt a common strategy for climate change at a meeting between the Prime Ministers of two countries at Copenhagen on the side lines of recent climate summit; and