

whenever any acquisition of a substantial nature is made, it shall be disclosed within a reasonable time. The declaration so made should be to the Chief Justice of the Court. The Chief Justice should make a similar declaration for the purpose of the record. The declaration made by the Judges or the Chief Justice, as the case may be, shall be confidential."

2. Since, the Judges are expected, as per the above Resolution, to declare their assets to the respective Chief Justices, the relevant information is also to be maintained by the Chief Justices. The Government has no role to play in this "in-house" mechanism of the judiciary.

#### **Encroachment in National Parks**

\*153. SHRI KISHORE KUMAR MOHANTY: Will the Minister for ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that National Animal parks are being encroached by the neighboring villages in the country;

(b) is so, whether Government has received any such reports of encroachment from various States;

(c) if so, what action has been taken by Government in this regard;

(d) whether it is a fact that animals are poached in a large scale in such encroachments; and

(e) if so, the action taken to prevent such poaching of animals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) There have been reports of encroachments in some of the Protected Areas in the country from time to time. However, there are no reports to indicate large-scale encroachments.

(c) The primary responsibility of protecting and managing the Protected Areas vests with the respective State/UT Governments. The prevention and eviction of encroachment in Protected Areas are to be done in accordance with the provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, the Indian Forest Act, 1927 and the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. The Central Government have also issued detailed guidelines to all the States/UT Governments for eviction of all in-eligible encroachments from the forest lands. Moreover, under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes of Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats, Project Tiger and Project Elephant, the Government of India provides technical & financial assistance to the Protected Areas for various activities including those aimed at the prevention of encroachments.

(d) and (e) Encroachment is not the main or only factor for poaching of wild animals in Protected Areas. There are several other factors for poaching like demand for wildlife in illicit trade, lucrative prices for wildlife and its product, retaliatory killings etc. The important steps taken to control poaching of wildlife are as given below:

- (i) The Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 has been amended from time to time for better protection of wildlife.
- (ii) Stringent penalties are imposed on offenders for contravention of the provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
- (iii) Financial and technical assistance is provided to the States/Union Territories under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes, viz. Project Tiger, Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats and Project Elephant, for better conservation and management of wildlife and its habitat.
- (iv) National Tiger Conservation Authority for better conservation and protection of tiger and their habitat has been established.
- (v) The Wildlife Crime Control Bureau has been established for control of illegal trade in wildlife and its products.

#### **Water pollution in Yamuna**

†\*154. SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government's attention has been drawn towards the 140th Report of the Central Pollution Control Board wherein water pollution in river Yamuna has been mentioned; and
- (b) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) Hon'ble Supreme Court vide its order dated 27.08.99 directed Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) to monitor the water quality of river Yamuna at Palla, Agra Canal and Okhla at regular intervals as well as to monitor the drains discharging wastewater into the river Yamuna. CPCB has been submitting its monitoring reports to the Hon'ble Court since then, As per the 140th monitoring report of CPCB submitted to the Hon'ble Supreme Court, the water quality with respect to Dissolved Oxygen (DO) and Bio-chemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) is meeting the desired criteria at Palla. However, the water quality at this location does not meet the desired criteria in respect of Coliforms. The water quality of the river as measured at Agra canal and Okhla does not meet the desired criteria in terms of DO, BOD and Conforms.

The water quality of river Yamuna at these locations is affected due to discharge of untreated sewage and industrial effluents. It has not shown the desired improvement owing to the large gap between the demand and availability of sewage treatment capacity and lack of availability of fresh water in the river during the lean period.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.