

- (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.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Implementation of river pollution abatement works is an ongoing and collective effort of the Central and State Governments under which various schemes of pollution abatement are implemented by the Government of India is implementing Yamuna Action Plan (YAP) for abatement of pollution of river Yamuna with assistance from Japan International Cooperation Agency, Government of Japan in a phased manner. A total of 276 schemes have been completed in 21 towns of Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Delhi and 753.25 million litres per day of sewage treatment capacity has been created so far under YAP. In order to ensure that only treated waste water is discharged to the river Yamuna, Govt. of NCT of Delhi has envisaged a project for laying interceptor sewers along the 3 major drains namely; Najafgarh, Supplementary and Shahdara at a cost of Rs. 1357 crore under JNNURM in the Ministry of Urban Development. Common effluent treatment plants are also being set up for the treatment of industrial effluent generated by cluster of small scale industries.

Report of IPCC on climate change

*155. SHRI BHARATKUMAR RAUT: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has expressed serious concern over the false report of United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) regarding melting of Himalayan glaciers by 2035;

(b) whether it is not for the first time that climate science relating to India has been found to be fallacious or incorrect and also the revelation that the data regarding melting of Himalayan glaciers was unverified has dented the image of IPCC; and

(c) what steps Government proposes to take to stop such misleading speculations by the UN institutions in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (c) The Fourth Assessment Report of Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in its Report of Working Group II on Impact, Adaptation and Vulnerability published in 2007 has provided information that glaciers in Himalaya are receding faster than in any other part of the world. If the present rate continues, the likelihood of them disappearing by the year 2035 and perhaps sooner, is very high if the earth keeps warming.

In the context of Himalayan glacier melting, IPCC has stated that clear and well established standards of evidence required by the IPCC procedures, were not applied properly in drafting the paragraph on the subject in question.

The view of the Government is that there is a need for a comprehensive and long term studies to determine the causes of recession of glaciers including the impact of global warming on Himalayan glaciers and therefore the Government has encouraged and supported discussions based on scientific findings on the relevant issues. The Ministry of Environment and Forests has published a