

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) No specific reports have been received from State/UT Governments except Punjab, Karnataka, West Bengal, Sikkim, Himachal Pradesh, Manipur and Kerala State Biodiversity Boards regarding damage to its biodiversity. However, as per the National Biodiversity Action Plan, the biodiversity, both floral and faunal, in the country is under threats mainly due to habitat fragmentation, shrinking genetic diversity, invasive alien species, declining forest resources, climate change and desertification, encroachments, / over exploitation of resources due to pressure of increasing population, urbanization and diversion of land for developmental projects, etc.

(c) Some State Biodiversity Boards including Andhra Pradesh State Biodiversity Board have suggested various measures for the conservation of biodiversity which include strengthening of Biodiversity Boards; capacity building of the line departmental staff; formulation of state biodiversity action plans; formation of village forest committees and biodiversity management committees; establishment of database of biodiversity resources of the state; and creation of awareness about the biodiversity; etc. However, some important steps taken by the Government for conservation of biodiversity of the country include survey and inventorization of floral and faunal resources; assessment of forest cover to develop an accurate database for planning and monitoring; establishment of a Protected Area Network; designating Biosphere Reserves for conservation of representative ecosystems; conservation of ecologically fragile areas such as mangroves, wetlands and coral reefs; implementing species-oriented conservation programmes; ex-situ conservation through setting up of botanic gardens, zoos and gene banks; and enactment of the Biological Diversity Act in 2002, under which a National Biodiversity Authority and State Biodiversity Boards have been set up for implementing the provisions of the Act.

(d) The allocation of funds for the biodiversity conservation related schemes/ programmes of the Ministry for the Eleventh Five Year Plan is Rs. 3653.98 crores. The expenditure during 2007-08 and 2008-09 has been Rs. 505.90 crores and Rs.684.73 crores, respectively. The allocation for the year 2009-10 is Rs. 783.66 crores. For the remaining period of the Eleventh Five Year Plan period, an allocation of Rs. 1679.69 crores approximately, is available.

Pollution due to ship breaking

†1858. SHRI BHAGWATI SINGH:

SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that breaking of ships laced with polluting chemicals is posing danger to environment;

(b) if so, whether Government is formulating any concrete and effective scheme to resolve this; and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (c) Ship breaking activities are carried out as per the directions issued by Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in Writ Petition 657/95 in September 2007 with regard to safety, health and environmental considerations.

As per orders of Hon'ble Supreme Court dated 17-02-2006, a Central Technical Committee (CTC) under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forests was set up to regulate various activities of ship breaking industries. The CTC gave its recommendations covering all aspects of ship breaking. These recommendations are operative by virtue of the aforesaid Supreme Court Order dated 6-9-2007.

Guidelines to mitigate the environmental impacts due to ship breaking activities have been formulated by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) and circulated to all the State Pollution Control Boards and the Pollution Control Committees in Union Territories for implementation. Ministry of Steel, Govt is preparing a National Code regarding ship breaking incorporating safety, health and environmental management issues.

Cleaning of Yamuna

1859. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the latest report from the Central Pollution Control Board states that the river Yamuna is full of excreta that its water resembles like a drain;

(b) whether the CPCB's 10 months long monitoring the river has reported that the lowest level of faecal coliform in the water was 4.4 lakh per 100 ml almost 100 times above the level, considered safe for bathing, and minimum dissolve oxygen of 6mg. per litre;

(c) if so, the details thereof, and;

(d) the steps taken by Government to clean the river before Commonwealth Games, 2010?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (c) CPCB has been submitting monitoring reports with respect to water quality of river Yamuna at Palla, Agra Canal and Okhla and the drains discharging waste water into the river to the Hon'ble Supreme Court at regular intervals. As per the monitoring report submitted by CPCB on 12.01.10, 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