

Project proposals received from the State Governments/UTAs that are complete in all respects are examined as per scheme guideline and are approved on the basis of inter-se priority and funds are released subject to availability, under respective head of account.

Ministry of Tourism has sanctioned an amount of Rs. 497.94 lakh to the Government of Assam in the year 2007-08 for development of tourist circuit (Western Assam Circuit), Dhubri-Mahamaya-Barpeta-Hajo, Assam.

Air quality standards

†2468. SHRI BALAVANT ALIASBAL APTE:

SHRI PRABHAT JHA:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government has fixed new national air quality standards;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has prepared any action plan for implementation of new standards;

and

- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH) : (a) and (b) Previous National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) were revisited by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) in association with IIT, Kanpur and revised NAAQS have been notified by the Central Government under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 on 16.11.2009. These revised NAAQS include initiatives that have been developed in consonance with global best practices and in keeping with the latest advancements in technology and research. Some of the salient features include:

- * Area classification based on land-use has been done away with so that industrial areas have to conform to the same ambient standards as residential areas.
- * The standards shall be applicable uniformly with the exception of stringent standards for NO₂ and SO₂ in the Ecologically Sensitive Areas.
- * The previous standards for residential area have been uniformly applied for fine Particulate Matter (PM₁₀), Carbon Monoxide and Ammonia. More stringent limits for Lead, SO₂ and NO₂ have been prescribed even for residential areas.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- * Suspended Particulate Matter (SPM) as parameter has been replaced by fine Particulate Matter (PM_{2.5}) which is more relevant for public health.
- * Other new five pollutants namely Ozone, Arsenic, Nickel, Benzene and Benzo (a) Pyrene (BaP) have been included for the first time under NAAQS based on CPCB/IIT research, World Health Organization guidelines and EU limits and practices.

(c) and (d) The Central Government has undertaken the task of development of protocols for monitoring ambient air as per revised NAAQS. To check the air pollution, various steps have been initiated which include:

- (i) notification of emission standards for various categories of industry under the environment (Protection) Rules, 1986;
- (ii) implementation of action plans for improvement of the ambient air quality in 16 cities apart from Delhi;
- (iii) implementation of cleaner fuels for control of vehicular pollution as per Auto Fuel Policy;
- (iv) use of beneficiated coal for coal based thermal power plants;
- (v) enforcement of 'Pollution Under Control (PUC)' certificate scheme to check exhaust emission from in-use vehicles;
- (vi) sale of 2T pre-mix petrol for two stoke-two and three wheelers;
- (vii) implementation of more stringent emission norms for generator sets;
- (viii) implementation of the recommendations of the Charter on Corporate Responsibility for Environment Protection (CREP) for seventeen Categories of polluting industries; and
- (ix) monitoring of air polluting industries for compliance of the emission norms.

Procedure for Allotment of Forest Land

2469. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of normal procedure for allotment of forest land for cultivation purposes;
- (b) whether it is a fact that various State Governments are not able to issue title deeds to landless forest dwellers as required under the 2006 Central legislation passed for the welfare of landless tribles; and