

Notification of mandatory buffer zones

2498. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Central Government has recently directed the State Governments to notify mandatory buffer zones for protected areas in the country, including tiger reserves;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Central Government has received any complaints about a series of buffer zone violations due to mining and real estate encroachments;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps Government proposes to take in case State Governments fail to notify buffer zones for protected areas in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) Under Section 38 V of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, States are required to notify the area peripheral to critical tiger habitat as buffer area of tiger reserves. In this regard, advisories have been issued to States for the needful.

(c) and (d) No such reports on series of violation in notified buffer areas due to mining and real estate encroachment have been received from tiger reserves.

(e) Notification of buffer area is a statutory requirement and a tripartite Memorandum of Understanding has been executed with tiger States, which *inter alia*, contains a commitment in this regard.

Comprehensive plan to increase forest area

2499. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware of the fact that the area of forests is shrinking on account of huge tree cuts causing thereby climate change;
- (b) whether Government has any comprehensive plan to increase in forest areas in the country; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?