

India. According to this system, the user agency is required to obtain approval of the State Board for Wildlife, recommendation of the National Board for Wildlife and clearance of the Supreme Court. After this is done, the proposals are processed under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

7. There is also a general power given to the State Governments for according approval up to 1.00 ha of forest land for non-forest purposes for social sector developmental projects executed by the Government agencies. These are also covered under the Scheduled Tribe and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006.
8. In addition to the above, there is general approval under Section – 2 of Forest (Conservation) Act 1980 for diversion of forest land for underground laying of optical fiber cables, underground laying of telephone lines and underground laying of drinking water supply pipelines.

Copenhagen accord and Kyoto Protocol

2470. SHRI RAHUL BAJAJ:

SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state in what respect the Copenhagen Accord is better and in what respects worse than the Kyoto Protocol from our point of view?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH) : Copenhagen Accord, dealing with some of the climate change related issues under multilateral negotiation, was a result of discussions held by the President of Fifteenth Conference of Parties (CoP-15) with a select group of countries at Copenhagen. The Accord was not adopted but only 'noted' by the CoP-15. India holds the view that the Accord is a political document and not legally binding. The Accord is meant to facilitate the negotiations under the twin tracks of Adhoc Working Group on Long Term Cooperative Action (AWGLCA) and Adhoc Working Group on Kyoto Protocol (AWGKP). Accord would have value if the areas of convergence reflected in the Accord are used to help the Parties reach agreed outcomes in the multilateral negotiations in the two tracks.

Adoption of binding emissions reduction targets by industrialized countries for the second commitment period under Kyoto Protocol is an essential outcome of the negotiations. Continuance

of talks in the twin tracks is aimed at ensuring that these targets for Parties to Kyoto Protocol are inscribed under Kyoto Protocol while the aggregate emissions reduction target for industrialized countries and the Parties that are not Parties to Kyoto Protocol are determined through an appropriate decision of the Parties under the Bali Action Plan.

Central zone project in Tamil Nadu

2471. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is proposed to set up Coastal Zone Project; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof including the locations thereof in Tamil Nadu?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) Under the World Bank assisted Integrated Coastal Zone Management project, a National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Zone Management within Anna University, Chennai, Tamil Nadu would be set up to carry out hazard mapping of the coastal areas of the country, including coastal areas of Tamil Nadu.

Pollution in Bhopal around tragedy site

2472. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has discovered high levels of chemicals in underground water and soil, around the Bhopal Gas tragedy site; and
- (b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to eliminate this contamination, leading to increased pollution and risk to the lives of people living in the area?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has carried out a study to assess the status of ground water quality and soil characteristics around Bhopal gas accident site in the surroundings of Union Carbide of India Ltd. (UCIL), Bhopal. The CPCB study confirms presence of heavy metals, pesticides and some of the volatile organic compounds in the soil