

Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission, Urban Infrastructure Development Scheme for Small and Medium Towns, as well as under State sector schemes.

#### **Complaints against Vedanta**

3272. SHRI P.R. RAJAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government has received any complaints against British mining major Vedanta that it had grabbed forest land; and

(b) if so, whether Government has taken any action against the company based on the complaint?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) The Ministry has not received any complaint against British Mining Major Vedanta alleging grabbing of forest land. The Government has accorded in principle approval to the proposal received from the State Government of Orissa for diversion of 660.749 ha of forest land for mining of bauxite ore in Lanjigarh Bauxite Mines in favour of Orissa Mining Corporation (OMCL) in Niyamgiri Hills in Kalahandi district of Orissa stipulating certain conditions. Compliance to these conditions has been received from the State Government of Orissa.

A team consisting of two officials and a non-official member was sent to enquire into alleged violation of the provisions of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, and impact of the proposed mining project on Tribal Rights and Wildlife Conservation. The report of the team alongwith compliance of the conditions is under consideration of the Ministry.

#### **Gap between Sewage Generation and Sewage Treatment Plant**

3273. SHRI R.C. SINGH:

SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a wide gap between domestic Sewage Generation and Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) capacity in the country and to the extent of 65 per cent sewage flows into the river and other water bodies untreated leading to large scale pollution of the rivers; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and what steps are proposed to be taken to install sufficient Sewage Treatment Plants along the major rivers in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) According to a recent report of the Central Pollution Control Board, against an estimated sewage generation of about 38254 million litres per day (mld.) from the Class I and II towns of the country, 11787 mld. (35%) is being treated with a capacity gap of 26467 mld. Discharge of untreated wastewater constitutes the major source of pollution load for the rivers.

Interception and diversion of sewage and setting up of Sewage Treatment Plants for its treatment have been among the major pollution abatement works taken up under the National River Conservation Plan (NRCP). So far sewage treatment capacity of about 4000 mld. has been created under this Plan.

The 'National Ganga River Basin Authority', set up in February, 2009 has resolved that by the year 2020, it will be ensured that no untreated municipal sewage or industrial effluent flows into the river Ganga. Investments required to create the necessary treatment facilities and sewerage infrastructure would be suitably shared between the Centre and the States.

Conservation of rivers is an ongoing and collective effort of the Central and State Governments. River conservation activities such as creation of civic infrastructure for sewage management and disposal are also being implemented under other central schemes, such as Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission, Urban Infrastructure Development Scheme for Small and Medium Towns, as well as under state schemes.

#### **Tiger census**

3274. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that tiger census may not be accurate;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) the reasons therefor, State-wise; and

(d) by when accurate figures would be presented by Government during the remaining Eleventh Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (d) No, Sir. As per the findings of the recent All India tiger estimation in 2008 using the refined methodology as recommended by the Tiger Task Force, carried in collaboration with the Wildlife Institute of India and tiger States, the total country-level population of tiger is 1411 (mid value); the lower and upper limits being 1165 and 1657 respectively. The State-wise tiger population and area of tiger 'occupied landscapes are given in Statement (See below). The new findings are based on spatial occupancy of tigers and sampling such forests using camera traps in a statistical framework, which is not comparable to the earlier total count using pugmarks. The said findings indicate a poor status of tiger population in areas outside tiger reserves and protected areas. The tiger population, by and large, in tiger reserves and protected areas of the 17 tiger States are viable, while requiring ongoing conservation efforts. Action has been initiated for the 2nd All India estimation of tigers using the same refined methodology.