

emitting construction equipments and bursting of sound emitting fire crackers during 'night time'.

The number and particular of days, not exceeding 15 in a calendar year, on which a two hour exemption (10 p.m. to 12 midnight), for use of loudspeaker or public address system and the like, would be operative, are to be notified by the concerned State Governments on the pattern of notification of Gazetted holidays.

(c) The Central Government has asked the States and Union Territories to ensure the implementation of these Noise Rules by taking appropriate administrative and prohibitory measures so as to reduce the ambient noise, particularly at night time.

Preservation of Sunderbans

3249. SHRI N.K. SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Bangladesh have jointly agreed to launch a programme to save the Sunderbans from the onslaught of climate change;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) whether due to climate change and rising sea levels, Sunderbans is facing the risk of disappearance; and

(d) if so, to what extent joint efforts of India and Bangladesh will protect Sunderbans from disappearing?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (d) There is no proposal under consideration to launch a joint programme with Bangladesh to save Sunderbans from the onslaught of climate change. However, the Government makes efforts for conservation and development of mangroves, wetland and Project Tiger in Sunderbans through centrally sponsored schemes.

The Inter-Governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), in its Fourth Assessment Report released in 2007, reported that the mega deltas of Asia are vulnerable to climate change. Sea-level rise could increase the frequency and level of inundation of mega deltas due to storm surges and floods from river drainage putting communities, biodiversity and infrastructure at risk. However, the Report makes no specific reference to the risk of disappearance of Sunderbans.

Committee to save wild animals

†3250. SHRI KAPTAN SINGH SOLANKI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry of Tourism has sought assistance from the Prime Minister to save tigers and other wild animals of Corbett National Park from extinction after the bitter experience of Sariska;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has constituted any Committee to save the wild animals from extinction; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) As reported by the Ministry of Tourism, an assessment of Hotels, Lodges, Resorts, Camps and Guest Houses, in and around the Corbett Tiger Reserve, was taken up by the said Ministry, while apprising the outcome to Ministry of Environment and Forests, Prime Minister's Office, Government of Uttarakhand and the Department Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture.

(c) and (d) Advisories have been issued to tiger range States for regulating tourist visitation in tiger reserves. Further, guidelines have also been issued to phase out tourism activities from the core/critical tiger habitats, while creating buffer in its peripheral areas to mainstream tiger concerns *vis- vis* the provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. The milestone initiatives taken by the Government of India for conservation and protection of tigers and other wildlife are given in Statement. [Refer to the Statement appended to Answer to Starred Question 429 Part (c)]

National River Regulation Authority

3251. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government has decided to create the National River Regulation Authority, in view of constant bickering among States over cleaning of Yamuna;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether in the past also several committees were constituted to recommend steps for cleaning the river; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and to what extent creation of the National River Regulation Authority will help in cleaning the river?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (d) The Central Government has constituted the Yamuna River Development Authority under the chairmanship of Lieutenant Governor, Delhi. The role of the Authority is to commission studies on different aspects of the development of the river, *viz.* hydrology, ecology, environmental pollution, sustainable use of the river front etc. to feed into the policy frame work, to develop a policy framework and prepare an integrated plan addressing issues of both quantity in terms of river flow and quality of Yamuna River, to develop an operational plan for implementation of the river action plan, effect inter-sectoral coordination and suggest design for a statutory framework.