

A Committee consisting of Shri Vinod Rishi, Retd. Additional Director General of Forests, Regional Chief Conservator of Forests, Ministry of Environment and Forests, Regional Office (Eastern Zone), Bhubaneswar and Dr. Usha Ramanathan, Research Fellow, Centre for Study of Developing Societies, a former member of Amnesty International's Advisory Panel on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, a member of the Governing Board of the Centre for Equity Studies, was constituted by the Ministry for submitting a report on alleged violation of the provisions of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, and impact of the proposed mining project on Tribal Rights and Wildlife Conservation. All three members of the Committee have submitted their report. Dr. Ramanathan was taken on the Committee keeping in view her expertise in working with Government Committees on human rights issues. So imputation of biasedness against Dr. Usha Ramanathan was not found to be substantiated.

Environmental clearance for allocation of coal blocks to GMDC

3260. SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Chhattisgarh Government has requested the Central Government for forest clearance for prospecting licence over forest area measuring 1987.912 hectare land of Morga-II coal block allocated to GMDC, an undertaking of Gujarat Government;

(b) whether the forest clearance has been accorded to Chhattisgarh Government; and

(c) if not, by when the clearance is likely to be given?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) Yes, Sir. A proposal for prospecting over 1987.912 ha. of forest land of Morga-II coal block allotted to M/s Gujarat Mineral Development Corporation Limited in Katghora Forest Division in Korba district of Chhattisgarh has been received in the Ministry in the month of December, 2009.

(b) and (c) So far, forest clearance to the Government of Chhattisgarh has not been granted as the proposal did not contain certain necessary information required to take decision. These details are still awaited from the State Government.

Cleaning of river Yamuna

3261. SHRI PARVEZ HASHMI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that despite several efforts by the State Governments nothing has been done to clean the river Yamuna;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government has any specific programme to clean the river Yamuna in near future;

(d) how much amount has been spent on cleaning of the river till 2009;

- (e) the amount given to State Governments therefor;
- (f) whether Government has any plan for beautification of banks of Yamuna river in Delhi; and
- (g) if so, the amount allocated to various States and time limit for completion of this project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (e) Implementation of river pollution abatement works is an ongoing and collective effort of the Central and State Governments under which various schemes of pollution abatement are implemented by the Government. To ensure that only treated effluent is discharged to the river Yamuna, Delhi Jal Board (DJB) has prepared schemes for laying of interceptor sewers along three major drains namely Najafgarh, Shahdara and Supplementary, augmentation of sewage treatment capacity, interception of drains, rehabilitation of trunk sewers, laying of sewerage system in unsewered colonies and rural areas and desilting of peripheral/internal sewers.

To supplement the efforts of State Governments in addressing the problem of pollution of river Yamuna, Government of India is implementing Yamuna Action Plan (YAP) with assistance from Japan International Cooperation Agency, Government of Japan in a phased manner. The works taken up under YAP include interception and diversion of raw sewage, setting up of Sewage Treatment Plants, creation of low cost sanitation facilities, setting up of electric/improved wood crematoria and river front development. A total of 276 schemes have been completed in 21 towns of Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Delhi and 753.25 million litres per day of sewage treatment capacity has been created so far under YAP. Against the total amount of Rs. 843 crore released to the State Governments under the Plan, an expenditure of Rs. 909 crore (including State Government's share) has been incurred till the year 2009.

- (f) No such proposal has been received by the Central Government
- (g) Does not arise.

Impact of climate change

3262. SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether climate related weather events have caused loss of lives and livelihood in different parts of the country during the last three years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, year-wise and State-wise;
- (c) whether Government has made a survey to assess the number of people in different States, including Bihar, who are vulnerable to climate-related extreme weather events; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the specific plan to reduce the vulnerabilities of people in the drought and flood-affected zones of Bihar which are highly sensitive to climate-related weather events?