

### **Papikonda Game Sanctuary, Andhra Pradesh**

3265. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has received a demand for a team to visit the Papikonda Game Sanctuary in Andhra Pradesh;
- (b) the details of this public demand;
- (c) what are the reasons for Government's delay in coordinating an inspection;
- (d) whether it is a fact that officers prefer foreign seminars to visiting sanctuaries in the country; and
- (e) the steps proposed to ensure that the rhetoric of Government matches ground action?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (c) There is no demand with the Ministry of Environment and Forests for deputing a team to visit the Papikonda Wildlife Sanctuary in Andhra Pradesh.

(d) Officers keep on visiting the Protected Areas as and when needed and attend the foreign seminars, trainings and meetings as per requirements of this Ministry.

(e) Steps taken by the Government for strengthening protection and conservation of wildlife in India are as follows:—

1. Threatened species of wildlife are listed in the Schedules of the Wildlife (Protection), Act, 1972, thereby according them the highest degree of protection.
2. The Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, has been amended from time to time and made more stringent against wildlife related offences.
3. A network of Protected Areas has been established to conserve and protect wildlife and their habitats.
4. Wildlife Crime Control Bureau has been set up to check illegal trade in wildlife and its products.
5. Financial and technical assistance is provided under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of 'Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats', 'Project Tiger' and 'Project Elephant' for providing better protection and conservation of wildlife.

### **Damage to environment by flex**

3266. SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR:  
SHRIMATI KUSUM RAI:  
SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV:  
SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI:  
SHRI BHAGWATI SINGH:

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

- (a) whether Government is aware that polyvinyl chloride (PVC) billboard flex has toxic constitution and causing ecological and environmental damage at a large scale;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether PVC flex is one of the major causes of global warming;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the details of volume of PVC flex consumed every year in the country;
- (e) the details of industries manufacturing this harmful PVC flex; and
- (f) the action proposed to ban it to save environment and ecology and if not, the reasons for compromising with health and ecology of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (f) Flex is a polymeric material made from polyvinyl chloride (PVC). PVC flex hoardings are used in the advertising sectors and as such are not polluting in nature. Used flex sheets are also recycled to provide resource for manufacturing alternate products of use. Used flex sheets could be recycled in an environment friendly manner into granules and co-processed in cement kilns.

The Government is not considering a ban on use of flex material in hoardings since the material is recyclable and has not been observed to cause environmental pollution.

#### **Industrial discharge as main source of pollution**

3267. SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV:  
SHRIMATI KUSUM RAI:  
SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR:

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

- (a) whether Government is aware that the industrial discharge is the main source of pollution in major rivers;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether river Ganga is also polluted due to industrial discharge in Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar;
- (d) if so, the details of the industries polluting holy Ganga in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, district-wise; and
- (e) the details of the action his Ministry has taken against these industries during the last one year, case-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (e) The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) and the State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs) monitor the compliance of discharge standards for effluents notified for industries by the Ministry. As per information provided by CPCB, 1393 Grossly Polluting Industries (GPIs), discharging BOD load of 100 kg. per day or more have been identified polluting the major rivers including river Ganga. Out of these, 948 units are complying