

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.