

[25 August, 2006]

RAJYA SABHA

(b) the number of occupants recommended for rehabilitation in the proposals sent to Government; and

(c) the action taken by Government during the last five years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (c) During last five years (01.08.2001 to 31.07.2006) one proposal for regularization of encroachment over 952.43 hectares of forest land, involving settlement of 1066 encroachers was received from State Government of Maharashtra. The proposal was returned back to the State Government due to the discrepancy in the forest area proposed for regularization in respect of Gadchiroli District of Maharashtra. Three proposals for settlement of 12,225 post 1978 encroachers of forest land on 3,631.64 hectares of deemed forest land was received from Administration of Andaman and Nicobar Islands. However, since the Hon'ble Supreme Court *vide* its order dated 07.05.2002 in I.A. No. 502 of 1999 in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 202 of 1995 has prohibited regularization of encroachment on forest land and has also imposed a ban on felling of naturally grown trees, the above proposal was not considered.

Rehabilitation of tribals on forest land

†3094. MISS ANUSUIYA UIKEY:

SHRI LAXMINARAYAN SHARMA:

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

(a) whether proposals were sent to rehabilitate tribals and persons of scheduled tribes on the forest land of Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the action taken thereon; and

(c) by when the rehabilitation process would be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEEMA): (a) and (b) 88 proposals for regularization of encroachments on forest land were received from Government of Madhya Pradesh for approval of Central Government under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. 40 proposals involving 224,874.792 ha. of forest land have been approved, 27 proposals have been closed for want of necessary information and one proposal has been rejected.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) The process of regularizations has been stayed as per the orders of Hon'ble Supreme Court. The Central Government has prayed for vacation of the stay.

Improvement in quality of water in India

3095. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the quality of water in India is among the worst in the world;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the main pollutants which are carried by Indian rivers; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to improve the quality of water in Indian rivers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) The water quality of rivers in India is determined through a set of parameters based on the designated-best-use of river stretches. Under the National Water Quality Monitoring Network, the Central Pollution Control Board has identified 71 polluted stretches on different rivers in the country based on the data of Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD), an indicator of organic pollution. No comparative study has, however, been made on the quality of water in India with that in the world

(c) Rivers in India are polluted mainly due to the discharge of treated & untreated municipal and industrial wastewaters, resulting mainly in increased organic matter measured in terms of BOD and microbial pollution indicated by the coliform counts. Agricultural run off and other non-point sources of pollution like open defecation, run off from solid wastes dumps sites etc., also contribute to water quality deterioration through addition of nitrogen, phosphorus- and other trace organic compounds.

(d) The pollution abatement for Indian rivers was initiated with the implementation of the Ganga Action Plan (GAP-I) in the year 1985. Under this plan, 259 projects were completed in 25 towns of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal. The second phase of Ganga Action Plan was taken up in stages from 1993 to 1998 and was later re-named as National River Conservation Plan (NRCP). Presently, NRCP covers pollution