

Environmental Toxicity in Punjab

748. SARDAR SUKH DEV SINGH DHINDSA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Central Government has received reports that Punjab has become a hot-spot of environmental toxicity of multiple types;
- (b) if so, whether any study has been conducted by the Ministry in this regard;
- (c) if so, the findings of the study; and
- (d) the action taken by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (d) The Ministry has adopted a Comprehensive Environmental Pollution Index (CEPI) system of environmental assessment of the 88 Industrial Clusters, evolved by the Central Pollution Control Board in collaboration with the IIT, Delhi. On the CEPI scale, 10 industrial clusters (CEPI>80) have been identified to be alarmingly polluted, 33 critically polluted (70-80), 32 seriously polluted (60-70) and 10 clusters (50-60) fall in the warning zone.

- On the CEPI scale, 43 industrial clusters (CEPI scores>70) out of 88 industrial clusters have been identified to be critically polluted areas.

- In the State of Punjab two industrial clusters-Ludhiana and Mandi Gobindgarh having CEPIs 81.66 and 75.08 respectively fall under critically polluted areas and two industrial clusters - Batala and Jalandhar having CEPI 68.59 and 64.98 respectively fall under seriously polluted areas.

- Action Plans for restoration of environmental quality for Ludhiana and Mandi Gobindgarh have been prepared by the Punjab Pollution Control Board.

Plans for protection of coastal areas

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

- (a) whether the Ministry proposes to evolve special management plans to protect vulnerable coastal areas in the country;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has decided to bring amendments to the Coastal Regulation Zone Notification, 1991;
- (d) if so, the details of the views expressed by experts in this regard; and
- (e) the role being played by State Governments in protecting vulnerable coastal areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) Based on the recommendations of the Prof. M. S. Swaminathan Committee Report titled "Final Frontier" July, 2009, the Ministry has brought out the pre-draft Coastal Regulation Zone Notification, 2010 on 30th April, 2010 which provides for declaring ecological sensitive areas in coastal stretches as Critical Vulnerable Coastal Areas.

(c) and (d) The Ministry will amend the Coastal Regulation Zone Notification, 1991 following the procedure laid down in the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

(e) For the purpose of protecting the coastal environment including the ecological sensitive areas, the State and Union Territory level Coastal Zone Management Authorities have been constituted under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

Forest cover in Rajasthan

750. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) the area in hectares and in percentage, under forest cover in Rajasthan;
- (b) how it compares with the national average of forest cover in hectares and percentage;
- (c) whether Government proposes to launch a new initiative to expand forest cover in Rajasthan Desert;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken therefor;
- (e) the details of the funds provided by Government to the State for conservation, development and promotion of forests during the last three years and the current year, year-wise and scheme-wise; and