(a)   whether it is a fact that Government, *vide* amending the EIA Notification, 2006, has centralized the power to grant the environmental clearance by taking away the same from the State level Environmental Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA) and giving to the Ministry for the areas falling within 10 km. radius from the critically polluted areas identified by the Central Pollution Control Board; and

(b)   if so, the reason for taking away such powers from the States and centralizing it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) The Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification issued vide S.O. 1533 (E) dated 14.9.2006 has categorized the projects into Category 'A' and Category 'B', based on their impact potential, for the purpose of obtaining environmental clearance under the provisions thereof. The Category 'A' projects are appraised at Central Level in the Ministry of Environment & Forests, while Category 'B' projects are considered at State Level through the State Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA). As per the general condition prescribed there under, the Category 'B' projects will be treated as Category 'A', if located in whole or in part within 10 km from the boundary of critically polluted areas as identified by the Central Pollution Control Board from time to time. The amendment dated 1st December, 2009 made in the EIA Notification, 2006 has not made any change in this regard.

(b)   Does not arise in view of (a) above.

Heat stress to birds and sea animals

731.   SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a)   whether the wildlife including birds and sea animals have lately been suffering from heat stress and dehydration;

(b)   if so, whether any survey or study has been made about the stress so suffered by the endangered species and if so, the outcome of such survey or study; and

(c)   the steps taken and being taken by Government to help relieve such stress?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (c) There are no reports from the State Governments indicating wildlife suffering from heat stress and dehydration, except for certain sporadic cases like death of peacocks due to heat stroke during summers. No specific survey/study has been carried out to assess the heat stress by the endangered species in the country. However, management of water sources as a routine management intervention is taken up in all Protected Areas to minimize the negative impact on wildlife due to heat and dehydration.

Sewerage discharge in Ganga

732. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a)   whether it is a fact that sewerage water discharged from the cities situated along the Ganga river is the main cause for its pollution;

(b)   if so, the percentage of pollution estimated to be caused to Ganga Water as a result thereof;

(c)   whether it is a fact that thousands of fish reportedly died recently due to discharge of poisonous water from industries at Shurkartal in the district of Muzaffarnagar; and

(d)   whether any enquiry has been ordered by Government to address this problem and if so, with what results?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) Discharge of untreated wastewater from towns along Ganga constitutes the major source of pollution load for the river. Against the estimated wastewater generation of around 3000 million liters per day (mld) from towns along the river Ganga, sewage treatment capacity of 1025 mld has been created so far under the Ganga Action Plan.

(c) and (d) As per the Central Pollution Control Board, information regarding fish mortality in river Ganga and its tributary, the Banganga, at Shukartal in Muzzafarnagar was received by the UP. Pollution Control Board (UPPCB) on 11.7.2010. The State Pollution Control Boards of Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand jointly carried out an inspection of various drains and streams discharging into river

104