

Inspection of Sultanpur Bird Sanctuary

1525. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a team set up by the Ministry recently carried out an inspection of the Sultanpur National Park and Bird Sanctuary where the drying of indoor lake led to death of animals and aquatic life including African black fishes;
- (b) if so, the details of the report submitted by the team; and
- (c) the details of action taken against the officials responsible for death of aquatic animals in such a large number?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) A team comprising the officers of the Ministry of Environment and Forests, World Wide Fund for Nature-India and a retired Director General of Forests had visited the Sultanpur National Park on 02.07.2010 and had discussions with State Government officers for finalization of the Management Action Plan of Sultanpur wetland and release of financial assistance for development of the wetland. As informed by the State Government of Haryana, only few fish, mostly African Cat Fish had died in the lake, mainly because of the drying up of the lake in the summer.

- (c) No action has been taken against the officials, as death of fishes had occurred mainly because of the drying up of lake, which is a normal process.

Declining of forest cover

†1526. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that the forest cover has been declining considerably due to requirement of wood fuel for growing population, increasing dependency of animals on forests and encouragement to new industrialization;
- (b) if so, Government's reaction in this regard;
- (c) whether Government has continuously been spending money for the last several years for expansion of forest cover; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) if so, the amount spent for this purpose during 2004-05 to 2009-10 year-wise and estimated percentage of forest expansion as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The forest cover has increased as per assessment based on (interpretation of satellite data carried out by Forest Survey of India. The decadal increase in forest cover *i.e.* the difference between the forest cover area as per the assessment of 2007 (ISFR 2009) and that of 1997 assessment (SFR 1997) is 31,349 km².

(c) and (d) The Ministry of Environment and Forests is implementing National Afforestation Programme (NAP) Scheme for regeneration of degraded forests and adjoining areas in the country. The scheme is implemented through a decentralized mechanism of State Forest Development Agency (SFDA) at State level, Forest Development Agency (FDA) at Forest Division level and Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMCs) at village level. As on 31.03.2010, 800 FDA projects have been approved in 28 States in the country to treat an area of 1.69 mha. through 42535 JFMCs since inception of the scheme in 2002. The State-wise details of funds released under NAP scheme during the year 2004-05 to 2009-10 are given in the Statement (*See below*). Tree planting is also a recognized activity in other schemes of Ministry of Environment and Forests, Ministry of Rural Development and Ministry of Agriculture. In addition, States also implement externally aided projects and their schemes for tree planting and afforestation.

Statement

*State-wise details of funds released under NAP scheme during
the year 2004-05 to 2009-10*

		(Rs. in crore)					
S. No.	State	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	Andhra Pradesh	14.21	7.08	11.06	9.97	11.54	11.03
2	Arunachal Pradesh	0.76	2.89	2.93	4.85	3.25	2.37
3	Assam	7.99	5.50	13.60	8.58	9.78	14.48

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
4	Bihar	2.74	3.42	4.94	6.92	6.48	7.74
5	Chhattisgarh	17.50	17.63	13.05	42.71	25.66	25.12
6	Goa	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
7	Gujarat	8.77	12.05	17.52	30.93	25.75	24.44
8	Haryana	7.46	4.35	9.20	12.93	20.14	20.57
9	Himachal Pradesh	10.60	9.08	11.56	7.43	6.72	3.59
10	Jammu & Kashmir	3.56	5.28	5.83	8.13	8.47	9.81
11	Jharkhand	8.66	7.85	19.03	24.56	26.32	21.06
12	Karnataka	21.17	23.03	23.54	31.02	15.46	11.95
13	Kerala	1.04	4.99	12.75	8.71	9.45	4.02
14	Madhya Pradesh	17.18	12.61	15.83	13.84	22.55	22.53
15	Maharashtra	13.12	14.69	15.93	29.92	21.87	20.53
16	Manipur	5.43	6.30	7.78	12.37	9.51	5.93
17	Meghalaya	2.45	5.18	5.44	5.94	4.69	2.21
18	Mizoram	11.20	10.06	13.09	16.75	13.61	17.27
19	Nagaland	5.60	5.37	7.22	7.75	6.64	10.67
20	Orissa	11.26	12.05	14.07	19.01	21.63	8.82
21	Punjab	0.14	3.97	3.36	5.88	3.30	3.01
22	Rajasthan	4.80	7.26	5.62	2.50	7.32	10.67
23	Sikkim	3.94	6.23	7.41	11.28	6.63	8.86
24	Tamil Nadu	14.06	20.92	17.22	9.46	8.86	7.98
25	Tripura	4.63	4.27	4.37	5.02	0.89	3.20

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
26	Uttar Pradesh	18.16	17.04	11.88	36.77	30.80	30.20
27	Uttarakhand	10.54	13.10	11.52	12.39	9.24	7.00
28	West Bengal	6.03	5.92	7.00	7.23	9.06	3.11
GRAND TOTAL		233.00	248.12	292.75	392.95	345.62	318.17

Plastic waste management

1527. DR. MANOHAR JOSHI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that plastic waste has become a major menace for the country;
- (b) if so, whether Government has formulated any action plan to deal with the plastic waste management in the country;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the action taken by Government for disposal of plastic waste in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (e) Indiscriminate littering and improper collection and disposal of plastic carry bags and pouches can pose problems for human health and environment.

The Government has notified Recycled Plastics Manufacture and Usage Rules, 1999 (amended in 2003) to regulate the manufacture and use of plastic carry bags, containers and recycling of plastics wastes. These rules, *inter alia*, provide that plastic carry bags should have a minimum thickness of 20 microns, carry bags or containers made of recycled plastic shall not be used for packaging of food stuffs, manufacturing of carry bags or container will be undertaken only by units registered with State Pollution Control Boards/ Committees and recycling of plastic waste