

Approval of draft Regional plan of Mahabaleshwar-Panchgani region

2312. SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK:

SHRI SANJAY RAUT:

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

(a) whether Government of Maharashtra has requested for the approval to the draft Regional Plan of Mahabaleshwar-Panchgani region; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) The Government has received the draft Zonal Master Plan for Mahabaleshwar-Panchgani Eco-sensitive Region (2002-2022) prepared by the Government of Maharashtra through the High Level Monitoring Committee (HLMC) for Mahabaleshwar-Panchgani Eco-sensitive Region constituted by the Ministry of Environment & Forests, alongwith its recommendations/suggestions. The Ministry of Environment & Forests has advised the HLMC to get the Zonal Master Plan revised by incorporating the recommendations/suggestions of the HLMC.

Funding through JFMCs

2313. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that currently about Rs. 1,000 crore in funding is routed through the one lakh Joint Forest Management Committees;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government is examining how to make the Indian Forest Act, 1927 and the Forest Conservation Act, 1970 compliant with the Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act; and

(d) if so, the details and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Environment and Forests is implementing the Centrally Sponsored Scheme, National Afforestation Programme (NAP) Scheme for regeneration of degraded forests involving Joint Forest Management Committees. During the Xlth Five Year Plan an

amount of Rs. 1056.74 crore has been released under NAP Scheme till 31.3.2010. The year-wise release of funds under NAP Scheme during 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10 are Rs. 392.95 crore, Rs. 345.62 and Rs. 318.17 crore respectively. The outlay for 2010-11 is Rs.303.00 crore. In addition, State Governments are providing funds to JFMOs under State Plan, Externally Aided Schemes, MGNREGS and schemes of other Ministries of Government of India for forestry works.

(c) and (d) The Indian Forest Act, 1927 and Forest Conservation Act, 1980 have no conflict with the Panchayat (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996.

Illegal trade in e-waste

2314. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the unorganized sector currently handles 90 percent of India's electronic wastes;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government's new draft regulations may not be effective in controlling illegal trade in e-waste;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether it is a fact that there are not many companies registered with the Central Pollution Control Board to segregate e-waste and to recycle it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (d) The Ministry of Environment and Forests has notified the Hazardous Wastes (Management, Handling and Transboundary Movement) Rules, 2008 for proper management and handling of hazardous wastes, including e-waste. As per these rules, the waste generated is required to be sent or sold to a registered or authorized recycler or re-processor or re-user having environmentally sound facilities for recovery/reprocessing. There are 17 dismantlers/recyclers registered with Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB). E-waste is one of the fastest growing waste streams. Considering the need to promote setting up of adequate facilities for proper e-waste recycling, the Ministry has introduced a scheme for providing financial assistance up to 25% of the total project cost subject to matching contribution from the State Government for setting up of e-waste recycling facilities.