

appraised under provisions of Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Notifications 2006, which has the component of public constitution. In addition the representations/ complaints received are also placed before the Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC) during deliberations on the project.

Representations have been received from various stakeholders of perceived violations of norms in Kutch district. The action is taken in case of violation as per the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

Seshachalam hill ranges as biosphere reserve

3598. DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Seshachalam hill ranges spread in parts of Chittoor and Kadapa districts of Andhra Pradesh is under consideration for designation as biosphere reserve;

(b) if so, whether the necessary details have been received from the State Government; and

(c) by when a final decision would be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (c) Based on the proposal submitted by the Government of Andhra Pradesh, hill ranges spread in parts of Chittoor and Kadapa districts of Andhra Pradesh covering an area of 4755.997 Km² have been designated as Seshachalam Biosphere Reserve in Andhra Pradesh on 20th September, 2010.

National Environment Appellate Authority

3599. SHRI SHYAMAL CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Environment Appellate Authority is ailing from lack of human resources;

(b) if so, the details of the posts to be filled up; and

(c) by when, these posts would be filled up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (c) The Parliament has enacted the National Green Tribunal (NGT) Act,

2010 which has come into force on 18th October, 2010. As per the provisions of the NGT Act, 2010, the National Environment Appellate Authority (NEAA) established under the NEAA Act, 1997 stands dissolved and the cases pending before the NEAA stand transferred to the NGT.

Action against industrial units polluting Ganga

3600. SHRI SHYAMAL CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the action taken by the Central Pollution Board against industrial units polluting the Ganga;

(b) the steps being taken to bridge the gap between sewage treatment capacity available and the demand being generated in the towns along Ganga; and

(c) what further steps the Ministry is taking to ensure a clean Ganga?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) CPCB has recently surveyed 26 industries located on the bank of River Ganga. Out of 26 industries, 7 units were found closed, 2 units were complying with discharge standards, 9 units required minor improvements and 8 units were found violating the norms for effluent discharge. Out of the 8 units found violating the norms, 4 units have been issued directions for closure, 3 units directions for taking remedial action to achieve compliance with respect to the discharge norms prescribed and one unit issued with show cause notice for closure.

(b) and (c) To bridge the gap between sewage treatment capacity available and the demand the Central Government supports setting up of Sewage Treatment Plants. Proposals for STPs are considered for sanction based on proposals received from different States subject to their conformity with guidelines and availability of funds. Creation of infrastructure for sewage treatment and disposal is also being undertaken through other central schemes, such as Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission and Urban Infrastructure Development Scheme for Small and Medium Towns, as well as under State schemes.

The Ministry has taken several steps to ensure a clean Ganga which *inter alia* includes constitution of National Ganga River Basin Authority (NGRBA) in February 2009 as an empowered