

#### **Setting up of National Elephant Conservation Authority**

1270. SHRI N.K. SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Ministry is considering for setting up of the National Elephant Conservation Authority;
- (b) if so, the funds allocated for the same;
- (c) a brief description of the activities that would be undertaken by the Authority;
- (d) the current elephant population in the country; and
- (e) the reasons for decline of elephant population in the recent years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The details are yet to be finalized.

(d) and (e) The population of wild elephants in the country as per the census done in the year 2007-08 is in the range of 27,669 to 27,719 as compared to a 26,413 estimated in previous census done in the year 2002. The population of elephant in the country is increasing not declining.

#### **Standard for noise pollution**

1271. SHRI N. BALAGANGA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has chalked out any standard for noise pollution;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the permissible standard of noise pollution in the residential areas;
- (d) whether Government has any data as to where it is higher; and
- (e) whether the Central Pollution Control Board has set up any monitoring mechanism to contain this pollution?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) Yes, sir. The ambient noise standards have been notified for different categories like, industrial, commercial and residential areas and silence zones.