

Policy to import scrap and other hazardous waste

†1289. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) the present policy to import scrap and other hazardous waste;
- (b) whether any cases of non adherence thereof have been noticed; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and action taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (c) 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. Import is permitted only for reuse or recycling or reprocessing. All import consignments are required to be accompanied by a Movement Document and a test report from accredited laboratory or the inspection and certification agency approved by the Directorate General of Foreign Trade. Action is taken by the Customs Authorities in case of non adherence of the provisions of the aforesaid rules, which includes re-export, adjudication, fine and penalty.

Violation of Forest and Environmental Laws

1290. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is developing some strategy to review the cases where the forest and environment laws have been violated in view of the fact that such violation have been noticed in cases like POSCO, Vedanta, Polavaram, Adarsh Housing in Mumbai and even DMRC Housing colony, Delhi and many iron-ore mines in Orissa, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Environment & Forests review and take appropriate action as per the law, as and when cases of the violations of the Forest and Environment Acts come to its notice. Nature of action does not vary from State to State.

Policy for protection and promotion of forests

†1291. SHRI RAGHUNANDAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether Government has proposed an Eco-tourism policy for the protection and promotion of forests;

(b) if so, by when Government would hold a discussion on this policy in the Parliament;

(c) if not, the reasons for not according priority to this policy for the protection of national natural resources;

(d) whether Eco-tourism is a forestry activity and if so, by when this activity would be notified by Government; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (e) Action has been initiated to formulate guidelines for forest and wildlife eco-tourism within the ambit of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

Environmental pollution by soft drink factories

†1292. SHRI RAGHUNANDAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that hazardous chemicals emanating from soft drink factories are causing health problems in different parts of the country, polluting environment, damaging crops and lowering quality of soil;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) whether Government is aware that these factories are continuously extracting limit less ground water and as a result of that dry zone is in making all around;

(d) if so, whether Government has prescribed norms under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 for them;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the action taken by Government against these factories, so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) No cases of such adverse effects of soft drink factories have come to the notice of this Ministry.

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