

districts of Maharashtra are pending for environmental clearance. Sapli dam project located in Hingoli and Nanded district was submitted for environmental clearance during December, 2009, without conducting public hearing in Nanded district. The proponent was requested to conduct the public hearing in Nanded district, which was held on 18.6.2010. The discrepancies in the project features mentioned in the public hearing proceeding and original proposal have been corrected and the documents have been received recently.

(c) As per EIA Notification, 2006, the decision on the proposal is required to be taken within 105 days from the date of receipt of the complete information.

#### **Slaughter of owl**

2047. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of large scale slaughter/sacrifice of owl for black magic/good luck etc. during festivals;

(b) if so, whether Government has taken any steps to curb this illegal practice; and

(c) the fresh measures taken/proposed to be taken by Government to save owls before they become extinct?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) A study report titled 'Imperilled Custodians of the Night: A Study on Illegal Trade, Trapping and Use of Owls in India' released by TRAFFIC - India, an International NGO, during November, 2010 indicates that owls are ironically associated with a wide range of myths, folklore and superstitions concerning black magic and witchcraft, etc. The report also suggests that domestic trade in owls is highly lucrative and the owls remain a key target of several tribes connected with the bird trade.

(b) and (c) The important steps taken by the Government to curb the illegal practice and save owls include:

- (i) Forest Spotted Owlet (*Athene blewitti*), a critically endangered species of Owl, is listed under the Schedule-I, and other species of Owls are listed under Schedule-IV of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, thereby according adequate legal protection to the species.
- (ii) Stringent penalties have been prescribed for violation of any provisions of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.

- (iii) Important habitats of wild animals including Owls have been declared as Protected Areas.
- (iv) Financial and technical assistance is extended to the State/Union Territory Governments under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes, viz, 'Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats', 'Project Tiger' and 'Project Elephant' of the Ministry for improved protection and conservation of wildlife and their habitats.
- (v) Wildlife Crime Control Bureau has been established to control illegal trade in wild life and its parts and products.

**Impact of global warming on human body and agriculture**

2048. SHRI PARSHOTTAM KHODABHAI RUPALA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Ministry has received any proposals from the State Government of Gujarat seeking funds for conducting detailed study about impact of global warming on human body and agriculture in the State;
- (b) if so, what further action has been taken by the Ministry; and
- (c) the details thereof and of the fund allocated for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (c) As per information received from the Government of Gujarat, a proposal for financial assistance for the preparation of the State Action Plan on Climate Change is under preparation in the State Government. Central Government considers such proposals expeditiously for necessary technical and financial support as and when such proposals are received.

**Mining lease of forest reserved land**

2049. SHRI Y.S. CHOWDARY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has granted any mining lease of forest reserved land in the Yavatmal and Dongargaon regions;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is a fact that mining applications forwarded to Ministry claims the land as barren and not reserved, despite the fact that land is still reserved as forest land;