

[10 December, 2004]

RAJYA SABHA

share of Rs. 360.00 lakhs, the Central Zoo Authority released Rs. 180.00 lakhs during 2003-04 and the balance of Rs. 180.00 lakhs was released during 2004-05. The DBT and CSIR have also released Rs. 129.90 lakhs and Rs. 18.011 lakhs respectively during the first two years. The balance amount of Rs. 89.86 lakhs for DBT and Rs. 149.06 lakhs for CSIR respectively are due for payment in the next three years starting from 1.4.2005.

(b) Yes, Sir. The foundation stone was laid on 16.9.2001 on the land provided by Andhra Pradesh Government.

(c) Does not arise.

Forest intensity

909. SHRI PYARIMOHAN MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the extent of forest land having less than 10 per cent forest intensity and less than 5 per cent forest intensity;

(b) the approximate number of years and resources required to bring the areas upto 40 per cent intensity; and

(c) the categories of industry/business from which proposals have been received for allowing commercial plantations on such areas and the fate of such proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) According to State of Forest Report 2001 published by the Forest Survey of India, the figures related to density of forest cover are as under:

	(area in Km ²)
Geographic area	3,287,263
Recorded forest area	768,436
Dense forest (Canopy density over 40 percent)	416,806
Open forest (Canopy density between 10 to 40 per cent)	258,729

The precise information of land having less than 10 per cent forest cover is not available.

(b) No study has been conducted in this regard. It is also difficult to undertake such study due to varying conditions from place to place.

(c) No formal proposal has been received in the Ministry, However, Confederation of Indian Industry (C.I.I.) has made a presentation on a study report titled "Public Private Partnership in Re-Greening of Degraded Kevenue/Private/Forest Land-Cost Benefit Analysis" in the Ministry supporting plantation of 1.2 million ha. of degraded land in 7 years by paper industry under Public-Private Partnership.

Pollution in river system in Kerala

910. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Supreme Court appointed committee has come down heavily on the Kerala State Pollution Control Board for its failure to stop industries from polluting crucial river system such as the Periyar;

(b) whether it is a fact that Kerala had no treatment, storage and disposal facility and several industrial units in Kerala did not have authorisation as required under the rules and they openly flouted the provisions of the Air and Water Acts; and

(c) if so, the action Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The State Government and the State Pollution Control Board have initiated a number of actions such as:

- establishment of treatment, storage and disposal facility for hazardous waste;
- Constitution of a Local Area Committee to conduct environmental audit of industrial units in the area that are affecting the ecology and environment and the local health of population along Periyar and in Udyogamandal Industrial Estate;