Amendment in Wildlife Protection Act

2022. SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to suitably amend the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 as it is felt and remove hurdle in expansion of national highways passing through national parks and sanctuaries where there is no substantial diversion of forest land;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (c) The Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 was enacted for providing better protection to wildlife and their habitats. Amendment to the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 is carried out from time to time. There are well laid down procedures under the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, read with orders of Hon'ble Supreme Court, for taking up non-forestry activities within the National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries.

New Lion reserves in the country

2023. SHRI BHARATSINH PRABHATSINH PARMAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to set up eight new Lion reserves in the country including Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether locations for setting up of these reserves have been identified;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the details of estimated expenditure likely to be incurred thereon; and

(f) by when it is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (f) No, Sir. There is no proposal to set up eight new Lion reserves in the country. However, in order to conserve the single isolated population of Asiatic Lions, the Ministry of Environment and Forests had initiated habitat feasibility study through the Wildlife Institute of India, which *inter-alia* has identified Kuno Palpur Wildlife Sanctuary in Madhya Pradesh as an alternate home for the Gir Lions and for the release of wild lions from Gujarat. While State Government of Madhya Pradesh is agreeable for translocation of Gir Asiatic Lions in Kuno Palpur, State Government of Gujarat has so far not agreed to part with Gir Asiatic Lions.

The matter is *sub judice* before Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in view of IA no. 100 in Writ Petition (Civil) 337/1995.

Coal mining in forest areas

2024. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry had compromised many of its original position to accommodate the demand of other departments *viz*. Coal Ministry in forest area;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Ministry has demanded to declare coal in dense forest areas as strategic energy reserve; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) After the enactment of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 with effect from 25.10.1980, prior approval of the Central Government is required for the use of forest land for non-forest purposes. The Act envisages optimization of use of forest land for non-forest purposes, including coal mining. To compensate the loss of forests and to minimize the adverse impact of such non-forest activities on flora and fauna of the area, suitable and site specific mitigation measures are taken. As such, no special dispensation has been proposed to accommodate the demand of other Departments including Coal Ministry.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Sources of pollution in Ganga

†2025. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:
SHRI RAMCHANDRA PRASAD SINGH:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that pollution level is found to be increasing along the course of the river Ganga from its origin to its meeting with the sea;

(b) if so, whether Government has identified the sources of the pollution;

(c) if so, the types of these sources and the contribution of each source in increasing the pollution level in river Ganga;

(d) whether Government has any plan to restrict these sources; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.