

(a) whether Government has proposed to set up a National Environment Assessment and Monitoring Authority (NEAMA);

(b) if so, whether the proposed NEAMA will cope up effectively with rising environmental challenges which are faced by the State level environmental clearance boards; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH) : (a) to (c) A proposal to set up a National Environment Assessment and Monitoring Authority (NEAMA) to strengthen enforcement and monitoring of compliance of environmental statutes and to improve environmental planning and management with a focus on environmental impact assessment and coastal zone management is in a conceptual stage. A draft Study Report regarding this titled "Scope, Structure and Processes of NEAMA" prepared by IIT, Delhi has been uploaded on the Ministry's website on 26.11.2010 for comments.

Mortality rate of wild animals in Orissa

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

(a) the number of elephant, tiger, leopard deaths in Orissa during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the reasons for increased mortality rate of elephants and tigers in the State; and

(c) the remedial steps being taken by Government to prevent death of elephants due to electrocution especially on elephant corridors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH) : (a) The number of deaths of elephant, tiger and leopard during last three years are as under :

	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
Elephant	54	47	51
Tiger	-	-	1
Leopard	1	1	1

(b) The mortality of elephant, tiger and leopard has not increased in Orissa during last three years.

(c) The following steps have been taken by the Government of Orissa:

- (i) The electricity distribution companies in the State have been asked to follow the safety provisions mandated by the Indian Electricity Rules, 1956, and the directives/guidelines formulated by the Central Empowered Committee in construction and maintenance of power distribution lines. The compliance of these provisions is monitored by the officers of State Forest-Department.
- (ii) A total of 51 elephant squads have been engaged by State Forest Department to monitor and report the possible threats to elephants including electrical lines.
- (iii) Since 2006-07, eight offence cases have been registered under the provisions of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 against the officers of Electricity Department for their negligence in maintaining the electric lines leading to death of elephants.

Control of forest resources in Andhra Pradesh

6. SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government wants the States to share the control of forest resources with local communities; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken in this direction, so far, especially for Andhra Pradesh?

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

(b) For sharing of forest resources, the Government of India has issued guidelines from time to time beginning from the guidelines issued on 1st June, 1990 regarding sharing of resources with the local communities. Accordingly the State Governments have taken steps to share forest resources. As such, Andhra Pradesh has also taken steps for participation of local communities and sharing of forests resources-through Van Sanrakshna Samiti and Eco-development Committees including revenue realised from the sale of forest produce.

Monitoring of GM food articles

7. SHRI P. RAJEEV : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :