

Wildlife corridors as Critical Wildlife Habitats

3583. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) the measures taken to ensure notification of wildlife corridors as Critical Wildlife Habitats under the Scheduled Tribes (ST) and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (OTFD) Land Rights Act;
- (b) the details of difficulties being faced in this regard;
- (c) whether Government is considering to notify these areas under reserved forests as Critical Wildlife Habitats; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Environment and Forests has withdrawn the guidelines for notification of Critical Wildlife Habitats on 7.3.2011, keeping in view the concerns raised by some Civil Society Organizations. No new guidelines have been issued by the Ministry.

(c) and (d) As per the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006, the Critical Wildlife Habitats are to be determined only within the National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries.

Non-utilisation of funds by NRCD

3584. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that only about 57 per cent of the amount allocated to National River Conservation Directorate (NRCD) in 2010-11 has been put into use;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) what action Government proposes to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) to (c) No, Sir. The National River Conservation Directorate (NRCD) is implementing the Plan Schemes of National River Conservation Plan, National Ganga River Basin Authority and National Lake Conservation Plan. Out of the Budget allocation of Rs.749.07 crore