

- (a) whether Government is aware of the fact that illegal cutting of trees is rampant in the country;
- (b) whether this is causing severe risk to the environment of the country;
- (c) if so, the number of people arrested for this offence, State-wise; and
- (d) the action taken against the number of offenders in this regard during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) to (d) It is not a fact that illegal cutting of trees is rampant in the country causing severe risks to the environment of the country. However, it is relevant to mention that large rural population-and people living in the vicinity of forests are dependent on forests for sustenance. Also there is huge demand for timber/small timber from forests which sometimes leads to illegal felling of trees. The Forest Departments in all State Governments take necessary measures for protection of forests and prevention of illegal cutting of trees. The State Governments take action against the guilty persons as per law.

Proposals of annual workplans under NPV by State level CAMPA

†1571. MISS ANUSUIYA UIKEY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) the names of the States whose State-level Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA) organising committee has submitted approved annual workplans under Net Present Value (NPV) to the Central Government;
- (b) the details of proposals received along with the amount involved therein from the State Government of Madhya Pradesh and the details released; and
- (c) the reasons therefor if no amount has been released and by when the same would be released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) A list of States/UTs from whom Annual Plans of Operation for the year 2011-12 for release of CAMPA funds have been received is given in Statement (See below).

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) and (c) No APO for the year 2011-12 for release of GAMPAs funds has yet been received from the Government of Madhya Pradesh.

Statement

List of States/UTs from which Annual Plans of Operation for release of funds for the year 2011-12 have been received

1. Andhra Pradesh
2. Dadra & Nagar Haveli
3. Himachal Pradesh
4. Karnataka
5. Orissa
6. Punjab
7. Sikkim
8. Uttarakhand

Ban on sand mining along river Ganga

1572. SHRI Y.S. CHOWDARY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had written to the States to put blanket ban on sand mining across India especially along the holy river Ganga;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has received any reply from the States; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government to stop the sand mining along the holy river Ganga?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Environment and Forests has not put any ban on sand mining across India; however, mining of minerals including sand mining projects having lease area of 5 ha and above require prior environmental clearance under the Environment Impact Assessment Notification, 2006 issued under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. With specific