

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government has established National Green Tribunal (NGT) on 18.10.2010 under the NGT Act, 2010. The objective of the NGT Act is effective and expeditious disposal of cases relating to environmental protection and conservation of forests and other natural resources including enforcement of any legal right relating to environment and giving relief and compensation for damages to persons and property and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto. Section 4 of the NGT Act provides that the NGT shall have a full time Chairperson, not less than 10 Judicial Members and 10 Expert Members but subject to a maximum of 20 full time Judicial and Expert Members.

(c) to (e) The National Green Tribunal at Delhi has commenced hearings from July 4, 2011. Presently, the NGT consists of a Chairperson and 6 Members.

**Prohibition on mining in CRZ area**

2956. SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether mining of limestone and other similar minerals is prohibited in Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) area as per CRZ notification 1991;

(b) whether there is any scientific study for prohibiting mining of limestone and other minerals in CRZ area;

(c) whether mining for limestone and other minerals can be permitted, where there is an elevated coastal area and cliff kind of structure;

(d) whether some State Governments have requested for allowing mining activities in CRZ areas subject to compliance of environmental protection measures and also based on the technical studies; and

(e) if so, what decision has been taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) and (b) The Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) Notification, 1991 and the recently issued CRZ Notification, 2011, prohibits the mining of sand, rocks and other substrata material including limestone except rare minerals like, monazite, rutile etc., and exploitation of oil and

natural gas. All activities which are permissible under these Notifications are required to obtain clearance under these Notifications. Mining of the sand, rocks and other substrata material is expected to cause damage to the Coastal environment including the Sea water intrusion.

(c) The CRZ Notification indicated in parts (a) and (b) above are uniformly applicable in CRZ areas including elevated coastal areas.

(d) and (e) The CRZ Notification 2011 supercedes the CRZ Notification, 1991. While finalizing the CRZ Notification, 2011, the inputs from various Stakeholders including the State Governments were examined for suitable incorporation.

#### **Reduction of emissions from transportation vehicles**

2957. DR. E.M.SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to formulate a long term policy and strategy to increase mobility but reduce emissions from transport by the year, 2050 following European pattern of no conventionally fuelled cars in cities, reduction in emissions from shipping, and use of low carbon fuels in aviation and shift the inter city transport from road to rail; and

(b) 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 Petroleum and Natural Gas has formulated the Auto Fuel Policy which stipulates Bharat Stage (BS)-IV emission norms in 13 metro cities and Bharat stage-III in rest of the country from April 1, 2010. The same has been implemented. In parallel, the auto industry is supplying BS-IV vehicles in the 13 metro cities from April 1, 2010 and Bharat Stage III vehicles in rest of the country from October 1, 2010, as the fuel of BS-III quality could be made universally available by the oil industry only from October 1, 2010. The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways is mandated with formulation and implementation of emission norms for motor vehicles and various dimensions of the same are debated in the Standing Committee on Emission legislation.

Further, the Ministry of Heavy Industry (MoHI) has recently announced a National Mission on Electric Mobility in May, 2011. The National Mission rolls out policies, projects and schemes and identifies milestones, both for the short and long term. The Society of Indian Automobile