(c) whether Government proposes to supply the water of Bisalpur project only to the urban and rural areas of Ajmer till the problem of drinking water of the people of Ajmer is solved permanently;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) As reported by the State Government of Rajasthan, rural areas of Ajmer district do face drinking water problems. However, 618 villages of Ajmer district are being supplied potable water from the Bisalpur project.

(b) Yes Sir. The Bisalpur project was sanctioned in the year 1986-87 to solve the problem of drinking water and providing irrigation in Ajmer, Jaipur and other districts.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) As reported by the State government, the water supply from Bisalpur dam is being made to Ajmer and Jaipur districts and also en-route habitations. Out of the storage of 31,568 Mcft of water in the reservoir, 5,100 Mcft water is supplied to Ajmer district and 11,100 Mcft water to Jaipur district. 8,000 Mcft water is supplied for irrigation purposes. The balance 7,368 Mcft water is allowed towards seepage and evaporation.

Non-functioning of National Green Tribunal

2955. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether consequent upon disbanding of the National Environment Appellate Authority (NEAA), the National Green Tribunal (NGT) was set up to serve as environment and forest related redressal mechanism;

(b) if so, the details of NGT, indicating its composition, objectives and purview;

(c) whether it is a fact that NGT has been non-functional so far as none of its members except the Chairperson have been appointed as yet;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) by when NGT is likely to be made functional?

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