

clearance as per the procedure prescribed thereunder. No separate EIA is required at the time of closure.

(d) Public Consultation is a mandatory requirement for all those projects activities covered under the EIA Notification, 2006 except those category of projects which are specifically mentioned thereunder. For the purpose of holding Public Hearing, the EIA report is required to be placed before the public. Detailed procedure for conduct of public hearing has also been prescribed in the Notification.

(e) Does not arise, in view of reply to part (d) above.

Environmental clearance to Gundia Hydro Electric Project

2964. DR. VIJAY MALLYA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal submitted by the State Government of Karnataka seeking Environmental clearance to Gundia Hydro Electric Project is still pending with the Ministry;

(b) whether the clarifications, information and documentation sought for from the State Government have been furnished by October, 2010; and

(c) by when the environment clearance to the project proposal is expected?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) to (c) The Ministry has constituted an expert panel on the Western Ghats Ecology under the Chairmanship of Prof. Madhav Gadgil for assessing the impacts of various projects on the ecology of this area. Due to location of Gundia Hydro Electric Project, Karnataka in the Western Ghats, the decision on the project is linked to the submission of the report for ecologically sensitive Western Ghats by the Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel.

Strict laws for conservation of river Ganga

†2965. SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount Government has spent so far on making river Ganga pollution free;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) whether Government will consider to enact strict new laws to keep it pollution free; and

(c) by when a decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) to (c) An expenditure of Rs. 896.05 crore has been incurred so far under the Ganga Action Plan for conservation and pollution abatement of river Ganga.

Discharge standards have been notified for industries under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. The State Pollution Control Boards/Pollution Control Committees have been empowered under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 to take appropriate action against defaulting industries.

The Central Government has constituted the National Ganga River Basin Authority (NGRBA) in February, 2009 as an empowered authority under Section 3 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 for conservation of the river Ganga.

Sustainable livelihood for people living in and around forests

2966. SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering sharing of the profits earned by the Forest-based products to the local population in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and steps taken so far; and

(c) the details of steps taken by Government to ensure a sustainable livelihood to people living in and around forests, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) and (b) Under the National Forest Policy, 1988 and subsequent policy documents on Joint Forest Management (JFM), State/UT Governments have passed resolutions for sharing of benefits earned out of forest produce from forestry operations between State and people. Accordingly, there exists mechanism in States for the sharing of benefits earned by the forest-based products.

(c) Government of India and the State Governments implement various schemes for ensuring sustainable livelihood to rural/tribal people of this country, which cover people living in and around forests.