

(a) whether it is a fact that the Hon'ble Supreme Court has directed the Ministry to submit a report to the Court on the damage to the environment on account of over-exploitation of Bellary mines, requirement of iron ore to the steel industry and how much of it is met by Bellary mines etc.; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and what action has been taken by the Ministry in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) and (b) Hon'ble Supreme Court on 29th July, 2011 directed the Ministry of Environment and Forest to submit an interim report indicating what the requirement of Steel Industry in India as far as iron ore is concerned. Secondly, out of the total requirement of the Steel Industry in the Country, how much is met by the Bellary mines. Lastly, how much of the quantity of iron ore is domestically required and internationally exported?

On 5th August, 2011, interim report prepared by the Ministry of Environment & Forests was placed before the Hon'ble Supreme Court. The Hon'ble Supreme Court on 5th August, 2011 directed that a macro level EIA study to be undertaken by Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE) in collaboration with Wildlife Institute of India, FSI and such other domain experts, as may be decided by ICFRE in consultation with Ministry of Environment & Forests (MoEF). This would be in respect of the Bellary district. MoEF was directed to frame a detail Terms of Reference for the proposed study within one week.

Ministry of Environment & Forests framed the Terms of Reference for the Macro Level EIA Study and communicated the same to ICFRE and all concerned institutes. Macro level EIA study is presently under progress.

Re-establishment of corridors for movement of tigers

2977. SHRI V.P. SINGH BADNORE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of 'Project Tiger' and Tiger Reserves having the problem of dwindling corridors for tigers to move from one Protected Area (PA) to another Tiger Reserve (PA);

(b) the steps being taken by National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) to re-establish such corridors; and

(c) the steps proposed by NTCA to tackle the issue where corridors have vanished and Tiger Reserves are like islands or pockets of survival only for the flagship species?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) As per the recent (2010) country level assessment of the status of tigers, co-predators and prey in the country, the tiger landscapes having potential for metapopulation existence but require corridor connectivity are: Srisaïlam (Andhra Pradesh), Similipal - Satkosia (Orissa), Ranthambhore - Kuno Palpur - Sheopur (Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh), Indravati - Northern Andhra Pradesh - Chandrapur - Nagzira - Navegaon (Chhattisgarh, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra), and Bandhavgarh - Sanjay - Guru Ghasidas - Palamau (Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand).

(b) Guidelines have been issued for preparation of reserve-specific Tiger Conservation Plan which, inter alia, includes indicative planning for adjoining areas providing corridor connectivity. Provision exists in the ongoing Centrally Sponsored Scheme of 'Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats' for supporting such areas.

(c) Besides supporting initiatives for developing/restoring buffer and corridor in isolated tiger reserves, active management involving tiger translocation is done on a site-specific basis to repopulate suitable low tiger density habitats from other well populated reserves within a landscape.

Proposals for restoration of forests in Chhattisgarh

†2978. SHRI SHIVPRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Chhattisgarh has sent any proposal for restoration of depleting forests and jungles in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the quantum of amount involved in the proposal along with the quantum of amount that has been released and that is yet to be released and by when all the amount is likely to be released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) to (c) No proposal has been received from Government of Chhattisgarh for restoration of depleting forests and jungles in the State. However, a proposal dated

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.