

**Recommendations of the Expert Committee on
Sapali Dam in Maharashtra**

2966. DR. BHARATKUMAR RAUT: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Sapali Dam Taluka Kalamnuri, Distt. Hingoli in Maharashtra, Irrigation Project is long pending with the Ministry for its clearance;
- (b) whether any Expert Committee has visited the area and discussed the matter with local authorities;
- (c) the recommendations of the Expert Committee; and
- (d) the reasons for delaying the approval of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) Environmental clearance to Sapali Dam Project has not yet been accorded as the Ministry received representation against the project.

(b) and (c) No such visit has been undertaken by any Expert Committee.

(d) The Environmental Impact Assessment Notification, 2006 provides for a time limit of 105 days for taking decision, after receipt of complete information from the Project Proponents.

Promotion of fruit bearing plantation in forests

2967. MS. MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the forest departments are promoting plantation of fruits bearing trees in the forests; and
- (b) if so, the percentage of fruit bearing trees have been planted, so far, to prevent animals from invading nearby villages for fodders?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Environment and Forests is implementing National Afforestation Programme (NAP) Scheme for regeneration of degraded forests and adjoining areas in the country. The scheme is implemented through a decentralized mechanism of State Forest Development Agency (SFDA) at State level, Forest Development Agency (FDA) at Forest Division level and Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMCs) at village level.

The plantation species is selected by the members of JFM Committees on the basis of their needs, ecological conditions and other local factors in consultation with the Forest Department. The native forest species are encouraged for plantation in the forest areas giving importance to