

Durban Conference on environment related problems

†2957. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that a world level Conference was held recently in Durban from 28 November to 9 December, 2011 to discuss the environment related problems;
- (b) if so, whether India also played a significant role in this Conference;
- (c) if so, the reaction of Government in this regard; and
- (d) the decisions taken in the Conference mainly through consensus?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) The seventeenth session of the Conference of Parties under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) was held in Durban from November, 28 to December 9, 2011 to discuss and decide upon various issues relating to climate change under the UNFCCC and its Kyoto Protocol.

(b) and (c) India played a significant role in the success of the Durban Conference. In Durban, India played a key role in establishing the second commitment period under the Kyoto protocol with effect from January 1, 2013, immediately after the expiry of the first commitment period.

In Durban, it was also decided to begin a process for developing legal arrangements for enhancing actions of all parties under the Convention. India ensured that the new arrangements, which have to be decided by 2015 and implemented from 2020 are established under the Convention. India highlighted the issues of equity and Common But Differentiated Responsibilities (CBDR) in the climate change negotiations. With support of India, the Green Climate Fund was also established in Durban.

(d) The decisions by the Conference of Parties to UNFCCC and its Kyoto Protocol are taken on the basis of consensus.

Construction of new highways through tiger and elephant habitats

2958. DR. CHANDAN MITRA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the proposed expansions of certain National Highways and construction of proposed new highways will pass through vital tiger and elephant habitats especially Jaipur-Alwar Highway in Sariska, NH-7 in Kanha-Pench corridor,

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

NH-6 in Nagzira-Navegaon-Melghat landscape, NH-69 through Ratapani Tiger Reserve, proposed Vijayawada-Ranchi Highway through tiger and elephant habitats in Odisha; and

(b) if so, whether Government has taken any steps to provide crucial wildlife corridors for the affected animals at convenient locations in order to save them from road accidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) Proposals relating to expansion/upgradation of some National/State Highways involve corridors of wild animals, as identified at a macro level.

(b) Appropriate safeguards for wild animals are made conditional, while dealing with such proposals on a case-to-case basis, keeping in mind the functional value of wildlife corridors.

State Coastal Zone Management Plan

2959. SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether State Governments have powers to approve State Coastal Zone Management Plans (SCZM); and

(b) if not, whether delegating these powers to the States will prove beneficial for the development of coastal zones with balancing fragile eco-system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) As per the Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) Notification, 2011, the respective State Governments/Union territory Administrations have to prepare the Coastal Zone Management Plans (CZMPs) by engaging reputed and experienced scientific institution(s) in consultation with the concerned stakeholders. The draft CZMPs prepared by the State Governments/Union territory Administrations are required to be considered by the concerned State/Union territory Coastal Zone Management Authority for appraisal including public consultations in accordance with the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. Thereafter, these draft CZMPs are to be approved by the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF).

(b) After the CZMPs, referred in part (a) above, are approved by MoEF, all developmental activities listed in the CRZ Notification, 2011 are regulated by the concerned State Governments/Union territory Administrations within the framework of the CRZ Notification, 2011 including, protection and conservation of the ecologically sensitive areas.