

1	2	3
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	1.08
30.	Chandigarh	0.20
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.00
32.	Daman and Diu	0.00
33.	New Delhi	0.00
TOTAL :		32.60

#### **Loopholes in environmental clearance process**

788. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether certain loopholes have been found in Government's environmental clearance process of projects during the study conducted by Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) and Delhi University;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to set up an autonomous multi disciplinary appraisal and monitoring agency with scientific rigour for conducting both environment and coastal clearance for projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) and (b) A consultancy project was awarded to IIT, Delhi to prepare a Project Report on the establishment of a National Environment Protection Authority. IIT, Delhi has made certain findings and recommendations relating to refinement of processes of environmental clearance in its final Report titled "Scope, Structure and Processes on National Environment Assessment and Monitoring Authority" submitted to the Ministry. The Final Report of IIT, Delhi has also been uploaded on the Ministry's website.

(c) The Ministry proposes to establish a National Environment Assessment and Monitoring Authority (NEAMA) with domain expertise, technological finesse and field outreach in order to strengthen and professionalize the regimes of environment impact assessment and coastal zone management under Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. The details and the time schedule for setting up the Authority have not yet been finalised.

#### **Impact of global warming on forests**

789. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that no less than 56 per cent of India's forests will be transformed under the impact of global warming;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that among the most vulnerable will be the Western Ghats; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) and (b) A report titled published in 2010 under the aegis of the Indian Network on Climate Change Assessment (INCCA), has assessed impacts of climate change on four eco-sensitive regions namely; Himalayan, Coastal, North-Eastern and Western Ghats. The assessment result is presented for forest grid which indicates that 55 (56%) out of 98 grids in the Himalayan region, 29 (30%) out of the 96 grids in the entire Coastal region, 6 (8%) out of 73 grids of the North-Eastern region and 10 (18%) out of 54 grids in the Western Ghats region are projected to undergo change.

(c) and (d) as per the report, the forest ecosystems of the Himalayan region are most vulnerable to climate change. The Coastal regions and Western Ghats are moderately vulnerable to climate change.

#### **EEAT scheme in rural areas**

790. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Environment Education Awareness and Training (EEAT) scheme is being used to educate students in rural areas;

(b) if so, the details of programme being implemented; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) Yes, Sir. Under the Environment Education Awareness and Training (EEAT) Scheme, National Green Corps (NGC) Programme is being used to educate student in rural areas about environmental issues.

(b) The Eco-clubs have been set up by the Government in the schools under the National Green Corps (NGC) Programme since 2000-01, with underlined objective of spreading environmental awareness amongst school children. These clubs are set up in each district the country over, with the focus on action oriented environment programme through the active involvement of the students. Though State Governments/UTs are at liberty to set up any number of eco-club in a district but the financial assistance under the Programme is restricted to 250 eco-clubs per district Rs. @ 2,500/- per Eco-club per annum.