

**Pending Irrigation Projects in Maharashtra**

17. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some irrigation projects of Maharashtra State are pending with the Government for environment clearance;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the present status of such irrigation projects; and

(c) by when such irrigation projects are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN ): (a) and (b) The proposals for Sapli Dam Project in Hingoli District of Maharashtra and Lendi Major Irrigation Project in Nanded District of Maharashtra and Nizamabad District of Andhra Pradesh are pending for environmental clearance. Additional information from government of Maharashtra is awaited in respect of Lendi Project. The ministry of Environment and Forest has received a representation against the Sapli Dam Project, clarifications regarding which have been received recently from the government of Maharashtra.

(c) As per Environment Impact Assessment Notification 2006, the decision on proposal needs to be taken within 105 days from the receipt of complete information.

**Environmental performance of the country**

18. SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has been rated to have the most toxic air in a study on Environmental Performance conducted by Universities of Yale and Columbia (USA);

(b) the long term and short terms plans to improve the country's environmental performance;

(c) whether the Government has taken any concrete steps to address this issue; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN ): (a) A report on Environmental Performance Index (EPI), 2012 has been produced by a team of experts from the Yale Center for Environmental Law and Policy, Yale University and Center for International Earth Science Information Network, Columbia University. The report ranks 132 countries on 22 performance indicators tracked across 10 policy categories covering both environmental public health and ecosystem vitality. These indicators