

Ecopiis Project thus choking several South Delhi Colonies; and

(d) if so, the action taken against the management of the project, so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) to (d) Based on the complaints received against the incineration of municipal waste and its likely harmful effects on the air quality and health of people in the Sukhdev Vihar/Okhla area due to the emissions from Waste-to-Energy plant at Okhla, an Expert Committee representing members from IITs, German Technical Consultants (GTZ) Delhi Pollution Control Committee, Department of Environment, Government of NCT of Delhi, NGOs and Public representatives was constituted to look into the technical aspects of the project. The representatives from NDMC, MCD, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, Government of India and Delhi Jal Board were also invited during deliberations of the Committee meetings. The committee completed deliberations on various aspects and recommended that in view of the Waste to Energy plant being located in an urban agglomeration adjacent to populated areas, the operation of the plant must ensure compliance to the emission standards prescribed in the MSW Rules, 2000 and as assured by the proponent.

#### **Schemes for controlling pollution**

†644. SHRI RAGHUNANDAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of schemes being run by Government to stop and control widespread pollution in the States and the details thereof;

(b) whether the State Governments have put forward projects under the above mentioned schemes before Government; and

(c) if so, the names of schemes under consideration and by when they will be redressed, and the State-wise details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) The Central Government is implementing the following Centrally Sponsored/Central Sector Schemes to control pollution:

Sl.No.	Main Scheme	Sub Scheme
1.	Pollution Abatement	(i) Development and Promotion of Clean Technology and waste Minimization Strategies (ii) Assistance for Abatement of Pollution Environment P&L (iii) Common Effluent Treatment Plant (CETP) (iv) Hazardous Substance Management

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

Sl.No.	Main Scheme	Sub Scheme
2.	National River Conservation Plan	(i) National River Conservation Programme (ii) National Lake Conservation Programme (iii) National Ganga River Basin Authority
3.	National Coastal Management Programme	-

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. These are ongoing schemes. The proposals seeking assistance under these schemes are received in the Ministry on a regular basis. The proposals so received are considered for sanction subject to their admissibility as per the guidelines, priorities set by Government of India and availability of funds under the Plan.

#### **Measures for checking desertification in the country**

645. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether dry land in India is increasing rapidly, and the present scenario thereof;

(b) if so, the details thereof over the past three years, State-wise;

(c) the steps taken to check desertification, State-wise;

(d) the recommendations contained in Desertification and Land Degradation Atlas of India (Space Application Centre, 2007) and Wasteland Atlas of India, 2010 (Department of Land Resources, Ministry of Rural Development); and

(e) the follow-up action thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) and (b) The status of land degradation and desertification in the country has been assessed by several organizations, providing varied figures, the systematic spatial inventory has never done before. The Desertification and Land Degradation Atlas (2007) was first ever attempt in the country to systematically carryout Desertification/land degradation Status mapping on 1:50,000 scale in the representation sites pertaining to arid, semi arid and dry sub humid areas, in both hot and cold regions in India.

India has a total geographic area (TGA) of 328 m ha, out of which drylands constitute an area of 228.3 million hectares (about 69.6 %). The drylands comprise of Arid areas covers 50.8 million hectares, Semi- Arid areas covers 123.4 million hectares and Dry sub-humid areas covers 54.1 million hectares.

The Department of Land Resources has no information that dry land in India is increasing rapidly. The total area undergoing the process of land degradation in India is estimated at 105.48 million hectares, which constitutes 32.07 percentage of