

1	2	3	4
4.	M/s Reliance Industries Ltd., MIDC Patalganga, Dist. Raigad	Natural/Flue Gas	48 MW
5.	M/s Hi Tech Carbon, Lohop-Talavali, Tal Khalapur Dist. Raigad	Waste Heat Recovery	23 MW
6.	M/s Bhushan Steel Ltd, Vill Savroli, Tal Khalapur, Dist. Raigad	FO	24 MW

Air Pollution in the Country

2037. SHRIMATI NAZNIN FARUQUE: Will the MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- whether the level of the air pollution in the country is increasing day by day;
- if so, the details thereof as on January 2012;
- the main reasons behind the increasing pollution in the country; and
- whether Government has any plan to launch least polluting vehicle in the country?
- the steps taken/propose to take to ensure that leopards are not killed further?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) and (b) Ambient air quality is being monitored regularly by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) in association with concerned State Pollution Control Boards under National Air Monitoring Programme (NAMP) in terms of Sulphur Dioxide (SO₂), Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂) and PM₁₀ (particulate matter having size less than 10 micron) across the country

Collation and processing of ambient air quality data is done in CPCB. Statistically, 104 readings are required for reporting average values for a pollutant, which takes time.

As per available data for the years 2008, 2009 and 2010, PM₁₀ levels are exceeding the norms in 98% monitored metro cities with an increasing trend in 40% cities and decreasing in 20% cities with no trend in remaining cities. NO₂ levels are exceeding in six cities (12%) and showing an increasing trend in Delhi and Kolkata. There is a mix trend in other metro cities. SO₂ levels are complying with norms in all the metro cities monitored.

(c) Apart from shipping, aviation and natural sources, the main reasons of air pollution in the country are vehicular exhaust emissions, operation of gensets, resuspension of roadside dust, industrial emissions, thermal power plants, construction activities, household activities, agricultural practices, etc.

(d) As per Ministry of Heavy Industries & Public Enterprises, the Central Government has undertaken the task to develop a 'National Electric Mobility Mission Plan' (NEMMP)-2020 to encourage reliable, affordable, electric and hybrid vehicles in the country

Approval for Conservation of Biodiversity Rich Areas in Kerala

2039. PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Will the MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received any project proposal from the State Government of Kerala on conservation of biodiversity rich areas of Udumbanchola Taluk in Idukki District for approval;

(b) if so, the details thereof and current status of the same; and

(c) the time-frame by when Government proposes to convey its approval to the said project, which has been commented as a 'Model Conservation Programme' by Dr. Madhav Gadgil Panel on Western Ghats Ecology?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

Development of CFR on Priority Basis

2040. SHRI DHIRAJ PRASAD SAHU: Will the minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Forest Departments have been directed by the Union Government to implement the Forest Rights Act in right earnest;

(b) whether development of Community Forest Resources (CFRs) is included in such direction;

(c) if so, the details of the findings of monitoring reports of the Ministry so far in this regard; and

(d) the details of concrete steps taken by the Union Government for development of CFR on a priority basis, and their outcomes so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs, being the Nodal Ministry for implementation of the Scheduled Tribes and other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006, also known as Forest Rights Act (FRA), 2006 has issued directions to the State Governments from time to time for implementation of the Act. This Act has to be implemented by State Government in accordance with the provisions of FRA, 2006 which *inter alia* provides for recognition of individual as