

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN) : (a) to (c) The Ministry of Environment and Forests initiated a formal consultative process with the concerned State Governments and Central Ministries by seeking their comments/views on the Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel (WGEEP) report. The Ministry has also uploaded the WGEEP report on its website for eliciting comments/views of stakeholders on 23rd May, 2012 within a period of 45 days. The Ministry has since received comments from some of the concerned State Governments and Central Ministries and large number of stakeholders. The Ministry has not taken any view on the same.

The Ministry has constituted a High Level Working Group under the Chairmanship of Dr. K. Kasturirangan, Member, Planning Commission *vide* office order dated 17.8.2012 to *inter alia* examine the Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel Report in a holistic and multidisciplinary fashion keeping in view the comments received from the concerned State Governments/Central Ministries/Stakeholders and other related important aspects such as preservation of precious biodiversity, needs and aspirations of the local and indigenous people, sustainable development and environmental integrity of the region, climate change and constitutional implications of centre-state relations and to recommend further course of action to the Government with respect to the Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel Report. The High Level Working Group has been asked to submit its report in two months.

Status of proposal from Coast Guards

2528. SHRI PALVAI GOVARDHAN REDDY : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any proposal from the Coast Guards was placed for approval before the meeting of Standing Committee on National Board for Wildlife (SCNBW) in its meeting held on June, 2012;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the SCNBW has taken any decision on this; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN) : (a) to (d) Yes Sir. The Standing Committee of National Board for Wildlife in its 25 Meeting held on 13th June, 2012

considered the proposal regarding construction of a RADAR on the Narcondam Island. Based on the deliberations of the Committee, it has been decided not to recommend the proposal and instead advise the proponents to work on different surveillance options like aerial, satellite, off-shore, ship based or other island located systems, other than land based RADAR on Narcondam island.

‘Research on quality of river waters’

†2529. SHRI THAAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : Will the MINISTER of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has conducted any research to know about the qualities of rivers’ water;
- (b) If so, the details of research reports; and
- (c) whether Government has formulated any action plan for the use of water as per qualities according to the research reports; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN) : (a) and (b) The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has been carrying out research and field-based investigations to assess the water quality and related issues of the rivers. The studies undertaken by CPCB include physico-chemical and biological/microbiological investigations, Inventorisation of polluting sources for estimating pollution load.

(c) and (d) Based on the studies indicated in part (a) and (b) above, CPCB has evolved criteria for designated best-use of river water quality in the stretches and has identified 150 polluted river stretches in 121 rivers. River action plans and programs for restoration of water quality of polluted river stretches are based on these studies.

Appointment of Chairman in National Green Tribunal

2530. SHRI NATUJI HALAJI THAKOR : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the post of the Chairman, National Green Tribunal is lying vacant since January, 2012;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.