

Eco-City Scheme

2526. DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Eco-City Scheme was initiated by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) in 2002-03 in selected towns/cities, including Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh;
- (b) if so, the success achieved so far in implementation of the scheme; and
- (c) the details of further action taken in the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN) : (a) to (c) The Eco-City Scheme was initiated by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) in 2002-03 in selected towns/cities, including, Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh with a view to improving the environment through implementation of identified environmental improvement projects.

Limited success was observed at Tirupati in Andhra Pradesh, under the scheme. In view of the limited capacities of the State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs), issues of coordination between CPCB, SPCBs & Municipalities, and availability of other schemes for Urban development like Jawahar Lal Nehru Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM), it was decided in October 2011 to close the Eco-city scheme of CPCB in public interest.

Report of Dr. Madhav Gadgil Committee on Western Ghats

2527. SHRI C.P. NARAYANAN : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is informed that some State Governments have turned down the conclusion of Dr. Madhav Gadgil Committee's report on Western Ghats;
- (b) whether the Central Government intends to concede their demands or uphold the Committee Report or appoint another committee to give recommendations regarding the same; and
- (c) whether the Central Government is creating precedence on exploitation of natural resources in the region at the expense of the preservation of flora and fauna existing in the region and protection of water flowing from the Western Ghats?

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