

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) and (b) The Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel constituted by the Ministry of Environment and Forests has submitted its report to the Ministry. The Ministry is consulting the concerned State Governments, Central Ministries and has sought stakeholder comments and has not yet taken any view on the recommendations contained in the report. The Ministry is considering to constitute a High Level Committee to further examine the Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel report.

(c) and (d) The Ministry of Environment and Forests has not received any complaints/representations in regard to massive construction activity resulting in large-scale vegetation cutting. However, all the developmental activities including construction activity as listed in the schedule of Environment Impact Assessment Notification, 2006 under the Environment (Protection) Act 1986 require prior environmental clearance from the Central Government in respect of category A projects and from the State Level Environmental Impact Assessment Authority in respect of category B projects. The developmental activities requiring diversion of forest land and located near Protected Areas require relevant clearances under the Forest Conservation Act, 1980 and Wildlife Protection Act, 1972. The same regulations apply on the developmental activities including construction activity in the Ghats zones. The Ministry has also imposed moratorium for consideration of projects from Ratanagiri and Sindhudurg districts of Maharashtra up to 31st December 2012. Further, some parts of the Western Ghats zone have now been listed in the UNESCO Natural World Heritage List.

Policy for disposal of e-waste

†517. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has formulated any policy for the disposal of electronic wastes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the measures taken to check the increasing damage to the environment due to electronic wastes?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) to (d) The Ministry of Environment and Forests has notified the E-Waste (Management and Handling) Rules, 2011 for proper management and handling of e-waste. The concept of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) has been enshrined in these rules. As per these Rules the producers are required to collect e-waste generated from the end of life of their products by setting up collection centers or take back systems either individually or collectively. E-waste recycling can be undertaken only in facilities authorized and registered with State Pollution Control Boards/Pollution Control Committees. Waste generated is required to be sent or sold to a registered or authorized recycler or re-processor having environmentally sound facilities. The guidelines for Environmentally Sound Management of e-waste, published by CPCB, provide approach and methodology for environmentally sound management of e-waste. MoEF is implementing a Scheme to provide financial assistance for setting up of treatment, disposal and storage facility for hazardous and integrated recycling facilities for E-waste on public private partnership mode.

Liver transplant facility in government hospitals

†518. SHRIMATI BIMLA KASHYAP SOOD: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is still no liver transplantation facility in all Government hospitals due to which patients are compelled to go to private hospitals where it costs them around 20-25 lakhs rupees, which is beyond reach of the poor;

(b) if so, whether Government proposes to provide costly surgery facilities like liver transplantation in all the Government hospitals established on the line of AIIMS;

(c) if so, by when; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Since Health is a "State" subject, no such information is maintained centrally. It is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments to regulate and provide such medical facility to the hospitals.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.