

- (b) the details of steps that have been taken, so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Environment and Forests/Central Pollution Control Board has not conducted any study to assess and combat the light pollution.

Vacant post of Members in National Green Tribunal

513. DR. CHANDAN MITRA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a few members of National Green Tribunal (NGT) have quit the Tribunal;

- (b) if so, the reasons therefor along with the number of vacant posts of members of NGT at present; and

- (c) the immediate steps taken by Government to fill the vacant posts of NGT and also to expedite the process of providing adequate amenities and conducive work environment for members of NGT?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

- (b) So far, three Members have tendered their resignations in the National Green Tribunal (NGT). The reasons assigned by the three are: (i) for taking up new assignment (ii) no reason given (iii) personal inconvenience respectively. Resignation of the third Member has been kept in abeyance on his request. At present, 7 posts of Expert Member and 6 posts of Judicial Members are vacant in the NGT.

- (c) A proposal for appointment of 6 Expert Members in the NGT has been sent to Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) for approval. The process for filling up of remaining vacancies of Members has already been initiated. The service conditions of the Members, NGT are governed by the National Green Tribunal (Manner of Appointment of Judicial and Expert Members, Salaries, Allowances and other Terms and Conditions of Service of Chairperson and other Members and Procedure for Inquiry) Rules, 2010 as amended from time to time.

Permission for mining in forest lands

514. SHRI K.N. BALAGOPAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state: