

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The Ministry of Environment and Forests provides financial assistance for conservation of wildlife including house sparrows, both within as well as outside Protected Areas, under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of 'Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats'.

A research project has also been assigned to Bombay Natural History Society during 2009 for 'Investigation of causes of house sparrow population decline in urban and sub-urban habitats of India' with a financial grant of Rs. 4.3 lakhs.

Categorization of coalfields as inviolate areas

1759. SHRI DEVENDER GOUD T.: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that her Ministry has categorized some of the coalfields as inviolate areas;

(b) if so, the details of coalfields categorized as inviolate areas;

(c) what exactly the meaning of 'inviolate areas';

(d) whether any recommendations to this effect have been made by B.K. Chaturvedi Committee;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether any consultations have been held with Coal Ministry before categorization;

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) No, sir.

(b) In view of reply to part (a) above, reply to part (b) does not arise.

(c) to (e) The B.K. Chaturvedi Committee recommended that coal bearing blocks should normally be taken for mining and clearances given for it except where there is a strong case for rejection due to extremely dense forests and other ecological and environment consideration of serious nature. The Group of Ministers (GoM) constituted to consider the environmental and developmental issues relating to coal mining and other development projects in its fifth meeting held on 20th

September, 2011 after examination of the said recommendation, recognized the importance of dense forests and suggested that identified pristine forest areas where any mining activity would lead to irreversible damage to the forests should be barred from any kind of non-forest activity. The GoM further recommended that all such forests which can never be regenerated to the desired quality should be protected and suggested that a committee comprising of experts in the field can be constituted to identify such forests.

A committee constituted under Chairmanship of the Secretary,, Ministry of Environment and Forests has formulated parameters for identification of such areas.

(f) to (h) In view of reply to part (a) above, reply to parts (f) to (h) does not arise.

Pollution of river Bharalu in Assam

1760. SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of steps taken to prevent pollution of the river Bharalu in the Guwahati city;

(b) whether Government is aware of the fact that solid waste and sewage that is being dumped into river Bharalu have created intoxicious pollution which is one of the reasons for flooding in the low lying areas of Guwahati;

(c) if so, whether the steps have been taken by the State Pollution Control Board in Assam in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS. (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) and (b) The Central Pollution Control Board, based on their monitoring, have identified polluted river stretches and water bodies of the country which include river Bharalu in downstream of Guwahati. The Pollution Control Board of Assam has studied the pollution aspects of river Bharalu and prepared an Action Plan to combat pollution in this river, including solid waste management.

(c) and (d) The State Government of Assam had submitted project proposal for pollution abatement works for Bharalu River at an estimated cost of Rs. 223.00 crore to the National River Conservation Directorate. The proposal was examined