

horned rhinoceros due to poaching as well as drowning in the flood has been reported in the Kaziranga Tiger Reserve. The details of such deaths during the last three years and the current year are given in Statement (*See* below). Under the ongoing Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Project Tiger, central assistance is provided to the State, which, *inter-alia*, includes support for protection/antipoaching. A set of long and short term measures have been suggested to the State by the National Tiger Conservation Authority to deal with the flood related problems causing wildlife mortality.

Statement

Mortality of the one horned rhinoceros in the Kaziranga Tiger Reserve due to poaching as well as drowning in the flood, as reported by the State

Year	Due to poaching	Due to drowning
2009	06	02
2010	05	02
2011	03	00
2012 (upto 23rd Nov. 2012)	08	28

Regulation of environmental degradation in the country

1888. DR. T.N. SEEMA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any study has been conducted to analyze the effects of rapidly growing population and economic development activities accompanied by extensive and unplanned urbanization and industrialization, and the destruction of forests;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government is aware of the major concerns and costs associated with serious land degradation, loss of biodiversity, deteriorating air quality in cities, increasing water scarcity, and generation of large quantities of hazardous waste from industries; and

(d) the steps taken by Government during the last three years to minimize and regulate the environmental degradation in the country?

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

- (b) Does not arise.
- (c) The State of Environment reporting, which is a continuous process is undertaken to understand, analyze and communicate information on condition and trends in the environment.
- (d) The steps taken by the Government to minimize and regulate the environmental degradation in the country include the following:
- (i) The Environment Impact Assessment process has been made more efficient, de-centralized and transparent through the Environmental Impact Assessment Notification, 2006 and its subsequent amendments.
 - (ii) A National Action Plan on Climate Change was released in June, 2008 to outline India's strategy to meet the challenge of climate change.
 - (iii) A National Ganga Basin Authority has been set up in July, 2009 to ensure effective abatement of pollution and conservation of the River Ganga by adopting a holistic approach with the river basin as the unit of planning.
 - (v) The National Ambient Air Quality Standards have been revised notifying limits for 12 pollutants
 - (v) A National Green Tribunal, 2010 has been set up under the National Green Tribunal Act, 2010 to decide all manner of environmental cases.
 - (vi) The Indian Network for Climate Change Assessment (INCCA) has been launched as a network based programme to make science particularly the three Ms-measuring, modeling and monitoring the essence of policy making in the climate change space.
 - (vii) Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) Notification, 2011 was issued for conservation and protection of coastal areas.
 - (viii) Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA) has been constituted for Afforestation, Protection and Conservation of Forests and Wildlife.

Studies on impact of Bt. cotton

1889. SHRI AVINASH PANDE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there have been any new studies on Bt cotton and its impact;