

(c) The PMO has informed that in case of linear projects requiring diversion of forest land in several villages, the conditions of passing resolution by at least 50% members is difficult to fulfill, as inspite of best efforts of the User Agencies, some of the villages do not come forward and this condition of 50% quorum is not complied with. Exemption of the linear projects from the above requirement may expedite approval under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of forest land required.

#### **Conservation of rivers in Karnataka**

2669. DR. VIJAY MALLYA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of water quality monitoring points identified under National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) in Karnataka since 2002 along with details thereof;

(b) the number of monitoring stations which have been working successfully in the State; and

(c) the details of preventive steps taken for controlling the quality of the river water?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) and (b) Under the National River Conservation Plan (NRCP), Water Quality Monitoring is carried out at 33 stations along rivers Cauvery, Kabini, Tunga, Bhadra and Tungabhadra in the State of Karnataka.

(c) Conservation of rivers is an ongoing and collective effort of the Central and State Governments. Under NRCP, projects for pollution abatement are sanctioned by this Ministry on a cost sharing basis between the Central and the respective State Governments. The projects include Interception and Diversion of Sewage, construction of Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs), Low Cost Sanitation/ community Toilet complexes etc.

#### **Stringent laws for violation of environmental laws**

2670. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased be state:

(a) whether, it is a fact that Government is considering to bring in stringent laws to punish those who violate environmental laws;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that no serious punishment is currently imposed on violators of environmental laws; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) and (b) Environmental laws are revisited from time to time with a view to award stringent punishment to violators.

(c) and (d) Adequate provisions have already been provided in the environmental laws for punishment of violators.

#### **Guidelines for clearance to laying of oil pipelines**

2671. SHRI BALWINDER SINGH BHUNDER: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry intends to review the guidelines for granting clearances for laying of oil pipelines;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) whether views of major stakeholders has been taken prior to revising the guidelines; and

(d) if so, the details of their views and stands of Government on these views?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) and (b) No Sir. As per the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification, 2006, prior environmental clearance is mandatory for oil and gas transportation pipeline (crude and refinery/ petrochemical products), passing through national parks/sanctuaries/coral reefs/ ecologically sensitive areas including LNG Terminal.

(c) and (d) Does not arise in view of the reply given above to parts (a) and (b).

#### **Conservation of musk deer**

†2672. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.