

(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:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (a) the names of places where musk deer are found at present;
- (b) whether Government has reserved forest areas, populated areas and civil forests to conserve musk deer;
- (c) the altitude at which musk deers are found;
- (d) whether any boundary has been fixed in the areas reserved for conservation of musk deers; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor and whether it is not creating problems for people living in the reserved areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) to (c) The musk deer was once continuously distributed all along the southern side of the Greater Himalayas, between 2500 m and the tree line; but as a result of human habitations, habitat alterations and poaching, it is now restricted to a few isolated pockets throughout its former range. It inhabits the forested areas between 2,500 m and the tree line. The average elevation of the tree line varies in different parts of the Himalayas, ranging from around 3,200 m in the western Himalayas to around 4,300 m in the eastern Himalayas. Unlike other ungulates of the Himalayas, which need to migrate to lower elevations in winter, the musk deer is well adapted for living in alpine, sub-alpine and upper temperate habitats (>2,500 m) even during winter.

In India, musk deer is reported to occur in and around 37 high altitude (> 2,500 m) Protected Areas, notified by the concerned State Governments *Inter alia* to conserve musk deer populations, located in the States of Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh. Some of the important Protected Areas where musk deer are present are as follows:

State	Protected Areas where musk deer are found
1	2
Jammu and Kashmir	Dachigam National Park (NP), Kishtwar NP, Overa-Aru Wildlife Sanctuary (WLS), Limber-Lachipora WLS, Thajwas WLS, Gulmarg WLS
Himachal Pradesh	Great Himalayan NP. Kugti WLS, Tundah WLS, Gamgul WLS, Kalatop WLS, Kanawar WLS, Manali WLS, Rupi Bhaba WLS, Talra WLS, Tirthan WLS, Sainj WLS, Shikari Devi WLS, Dhauladhar WLS

1	2
Uttarakhand	Nanda Devi NP, Valley of Flowers NP, Gangtori NP, Govind NP, Kedarnath WLS, Ascot WLS, Nanda Devi Biosphere Reserve (BR)
Sikkim	Khangchendzonga NP & BR, Singba WLS, Kyongnosla WLS, Pangolakha WLS, Maenam WLS
Arunachal Pradesh	Namdapha NP, Mouling NP, Mehao WLS, and Dihang- Dibang BR

(d) and (e) The Protected Areas (national parks and sanctuaries), including those where musk deer are present, are notified by the concerned State Government under the provisions of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972. The limits of the area which are comprised within the protected areas are specified in the notifications issued under section 26A/35, as applicable, of the aforesaid Act by such Governments. This Ministry has not received any report about non-fixing of the boundary in the areas reserved for conservation of musk deer creating problems for people living in such areas.

Impact of climatic change

†2673. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that nature including human life is getting affected due to very sharp climatic changes taking place in the world;

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether it is also a fact that even India is not immune to this adverse change in the environment; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the additional steps taken by Government to protect the country from this crisis during the Twelfth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) and (b) The Fourth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) published in the year 2007 projects increased risk of extreme weather events including heat waves, summer dryness, heavy and/or irregular rainfall, drought and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.