

(a) whether Government is aware that environment in Delhi has become completely polluted due to which infectious diseases among people have increased manifold;

(b) whether Government is contemplating upon any ambitious scheme to make the National Capital Region pollution free; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) to (c) The Central Pollution Control Board is monitoring ambient air quality in Delhi. The data from 2001 to 2011 indicate that the SO₂ levels were within the prescribed National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) However, the levels of NO₂ and PM₁₀ exceeded the prescribed standards. The health effects, such as manifestation of respiratory ailments etc., could be associated with pollution. However, due to various confounding factors, no conclusive data is established indicating correlation between pollution and consequential health impacts. Steps taken by the Government to control environmental pollution include formulation of a comprehensive policy for abatement of pollution, supply of improved auto-fuel, tightening of vehicular and industrial emission norms, mandatory environmental clearance for specified industries, management of municipal, hazardous and bio-medical wastes, promotion of cleaner technologies, strengthening the network of air quality monitoring stations, preparation and implementation of action plans for major cities and critically polluted areas, public awareness etc.

Proposal for development works related projects

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

(a) the number of proposals regarding development works related projects, under Forest Act, 1980, received by the Ministry for approval from Uttarakhand during the last three months; and

(b) the details of proposals approved and the proposals returned on account of shortcomings therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) and (b) During the period of

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

last three and half months from 01.08.2012 to 15.11.2012, Central Government received 35 proposals seeking prior approval of Central Government under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of forest land for non-forest purpose from the State Government of Uttarakhand. Out of these proposals, final approval under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 has already been accorded to two proposals. In-principle approval has been accorded to seven proposals. Three proposals have been rejected on merit. Certain essential information/documents have been sought from the State Government of Uttarakhand in respect of sixteen proposals.

Participation of States in conservation of rivers

†494. SHRI DARSHAN SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has formulated any project to make major rivers of the country pollution-free;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the amount allocated for implementation of this project by Government;
- (d) whether State Governments also spend money in this project; and
- (e) if so, the details of expenditure on this project by State Governments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) and (b) Conservation of rivers and lakes is an ongoing and collective effort of the Central and State Governments and this Ministry is supplementing the efforts of the State Governments in abatement of pollution in identified stretches of various rivers under the National River Conservation Plan (NRCP). NRCP presently covers 41 rivers in 191 towns spread over 20 States. Pollution abatement schemes implemented under the plan include interception, diversion and treatment of sewage; low cost sanitation works on river banks; electric/improved wood based crematoria, etc.

(c) to (e) Under the Plan, funds are provided to States for implementing pollution abatement works of various rivers in the cost sharing ratio of 70:30 between the Centre and the States. For the North-East States the cost sharing ratio is 90:10. An amount of Rs.8847.22 crore have been sanctioned under the National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) since 1985, out of which Rs.5542.42 crore have been utilised. Both the amounts include share of State Governments also.

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