

monitoring authority with an objective to ensure effective abatement of pollution and conservation of the river Ganga by adopting a holistic river basin approach.

Conservation of rivers 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 rivers under National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) for implementation of projects on a cost sharing basis between the Central and State Governments. The NRCP presently covers 41 rivers in 191 towns spread over 20 States.

- (d) As per details given in part (a) of the question above.

#### **De-horning of rhinos**

1562. SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the rhinos in African countries have been de-horned to deter the poachers from killing the rhino;
- (b) whether it is viable for the state to de-horn and remove the horns so that the rhinos are not targeted for the horns and save them from being killed; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) The Ministry of Environment and Forests is not aware of the fact that the rhinos in African countries have been de-horned to deter the poachers from killing the rhino.

- (b) and (c) In view of (a) above, the question does not arise.

#### **Killing of leopard in Assam**

1563. DR. NAJMA A. HEPTULLA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the incident in which a leopard has been killed and mutilated by cutting its tail, legs and head by villagers at Ouguri Shyam village in Borhat forest range of Sivasagar district in Assam;