

- (iv) The Ministry of Environment and Forests sanctioned an amount of Rs 2.42 crores and released Rs 1.93 crores to the Government of West Bengal during FY 2010-11 for creation of fences and ramps at several places within Mahananda and Chapramari Wildlife Sanctuaries.
- (v) The Ministry of Environment and Forests has been releasing financial assistance to the State Government of West Bengal under Centrally Sponsored Scheme- 'Project Elephant' for construction of RCC watch towers, provision of heavy duty solar lights, high beam search lights, engagement of personnel to man watch towers, and clearing of bushes on the sides of railway tracks for improving visibility to monitor the movement of elephants near the railway tracks with the objective of preventing collision of elephants with trains.

Impact of global warming on flora and fauna

1580. SHRI N. BALAGANGA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has constituted an expert committee to go into the phenomenon of global warming and its impact on flora and fauna;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the outcome of such a committee;
- (c) whether Government has taken any action on the recommendations of the committee; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) to (d) An expert committee was set up in 2007 under the chairmanship of the Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India to assess the impacts of climate change in India on various sectors including agriculture, forests and natural ecosystem. The Expert Committee submitted its report in 2008 outlining the initiatives and actions needed in each of sectors to address the likely adverse impacts of climate change. The report has been circulated to the relevant line Ministries for appropriate actions. Many of its recommendations are subsumed in various missions under the National Action Plan on Climate Change.

Actual forest area in the country

1581. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the total forest area in the country is decreasing every day, although the satellite picture shows more forest area which may include coal fields, sugarcane fields etc. which are not actually forest; and

(b) the details of strategies of Government for sustainable growth of forest in India and to comply the UNO climate millennium programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) Forest Survey of India has been mapping and assessing the country's forest cover biennially using Remote Sensing Technology. Forest cover includes all lands having trees with canopy density of ten percent and above and with area one hectare and more irrespective of its land use. As per the India State of Forest Report-2011 the total loss of the forest cover is 367 square kilometer compared to the previous assessment of India State of Forest Report-2009.

(b) There is a strong policy and legal frame which include the National Forest Policy, 1988, Indian Forest Act, 1927, Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and Biological Diversity Act, 2002 for sustainable management of forests. The National Forest Policy provides for sustainable management of forests. The principal aim of Forest Policy is to ensure environmental stability and maintenance of ecological balance. The Policy aims to have a minimum of one third of the total land area of the country under forest or tree cover. To move towards the goal of 33% forest and tree cover, afforestation in the country is taken up under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes such as National Afforestation Programme (NAP), Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP), National Bamboo Mission (NBM), 13th Finance Commission and also under different State Plan/Non-Plan Schemes including externally aided projects. National Afforestation Programme (NAP) of the Ministry of Environment & Forests is a 100% Centrally Sponsored Scheme for afforestation and tree plantation and eco-restoration of degraded forests and adjoining areas in the country through people's participation. Working Plans are the instruments for scientific forest management. All forest are managed under the prescription of a working plan/scheme.

The National Mission for 'A Green India' is one of the eight Missions under the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC). The Green India Mission

aims to increase forest and tree cover on 5 million hectare area and to improve quality of forest cover on another 5 million hectare area, environmental amelioration through climate mitigation, forest based livelihood of local communities and also to improve ecosystem services such as carbon sequestration, biodiversity and hydrological services. Plantation activities have been envisaged in the Mission through various Sub Missions.

Lakes of AP under NLCP

1582. SHRI C. M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the lakes in Andhra Pradesh included in the scheme of National Lake Conservation Plan (NLCP);

(b) whether this scheme yielded desired results in conserving and managing the polluted and degraded lakes in Andhra Pradesh; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of National Lake Conservation Plan, this Ministry has sanctioned the project 'Rehabilitation and Rejuvenation of Banjara Lake' in Hyderabad (Andhra Pradesh) in May, 2009 at a cost as Rs.4.30 crore, on 70:30 funding pattern.

(b) and (c) The project is under implementation and out of the Central share of Rs.3.01 crore, an amount of Rs.2.70 crore has been released.

Indiscriminate use of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980

1583. SHRI C. M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 is indiscriminately used to grant approval for carrying out non-forest activities including mining in the forest land; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to prevent such activities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) Prior approval of Central