

5. Programmes are launched to sensitize people and create awareness about the Do's and Don'ts in case of scare and attacks of wild animals.
6. Eco-development activities are undertaken in villages around Protected Areas to elicit the cooperation of communities in management of the Protected Areas, which includes actions to address the grievances of people regarding human-wildlife conflicts.

Implementation of NLCP in U.P.

2341. SHRI KIRANMAY NANDA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has identified lakes in our country for restoration under National Lake Conservation Plan (NLCP);
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) The details and progress of lake conservation work going on in Uttar Pradesh under this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) and (b) A list of lakes identified for conservation under the National Lake Conservation Plan was prepared and sent to the State Governments for prioritization of water bodies in their States. Out of the proposals received, the Ministry sanctioned projects for conservation of 61 lakes in 14 States of the country, for a total cost of Rs. 1031.18 crore. These proposals were considered on the basis of prioritization of water bodies by the States, conformity with NLCP guidelines and availability of Plan funds.

(c) In the State of Uttar Pradesh, projects for conservation of Mansi Ganga in Mathura and Ramgarh Tal in Gorakhpur were sanctioned under the scheme, at a cost of Rs. 22.71 crore and Rs. 124.32 crore respectively. These projects are in different stages of implementation.

Environmental problem on river and river-bed

2342. SHRI BASAWARAJ PATIL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether haphazard utilization of sand which is creating severe environmental problem on river and river-bed of the country; and

(b) the details of steps taken to stop environmental pollution on river-side and river bed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) Sand other than used for prescribed purposes, being a minor mineral for which all powers of regulation are empowered to the State Governments concerned under section 15 of the Mines and Minerals Development and Regulation Act, 1957 the respective State Governments are required to frame rules for sand mining. The projects of sand mining require prior environment clearance under the Environment Impact Assessment Notification, 2006, under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

Field trial of GM plants in the country

2343. SHRI K.N. BALAGOPAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has allowed field trial of Genetically Modified (GM) plants in Agriculture sector in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any scientific study has been done on the effect of the GM food on human body; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) and (b) Yes Sir, The Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC), apex body notified under Rules 1989 has approved experimental field trials for the purpose of biosafety research and event selection in respect of GM crops such as cotton, rice, tomato, groundnut, potato, corn, sorghum, okra, brinjal, mustard, wheat, watermelon, papaya, sugarcane, rubber, castor, banana, pigeon pea, *Artemisia annua* L and Chickpea. Out of the 20 crops approved, field trials of only transgenic cotton, corn and mustard were initiated after obtaining NOC from the State Government. In respect of other crops, NOC from the State Governments are awaited. Currently there are no ongoing field trials with GM crops.