

(b) if so, the manner in which approximately 20000 fishermen families of 11 nearby villages who are affected by the project are going to be rehabilitated properly and also ensuring their livelihood?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) and (b) The proposal for development of International Container Transshipment Terminal at Vizhinjam, Kerala by M/s Vizhinjam Port Ltd. was considered by the Expert Appraisal Committee in its meetings held in January, 2011, May, 2011, and June, 2011 and Terms of Reference (ToR) were finalised for further Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) studies, including conduct of Public Hearing as required under the EIA Notification, 2006.

In the meantime, various representations were received against the project alleging that the proponent has submitted false data, especially about the site and that the project will affect fishing activity, tourism resorts, etc. in the area. The representations were sent to Government of Kerala and the M/s Vizhinjam Port Ltd. for their comments.

The Proponent has not yet submitted the final EIA report including the proposed Rehabilitation plan to consider the project for grant of environment and CRZ clearance.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Poaching of leopards

3101. SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that every week more than four leopards are killed in India;
- (b) the current population of leopards in India;
- (c) the number of leopards poached during the last two years;
- (d) whether poaching of leopards is increasing at very fast rate; and
- (e) the steps taken by Government to protect the species?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) and (b) Incidents of death of leopards do come to the notice of this Ministry. However, this Ministry does not have any report of killing of more than four leopards every week in the country.

The information regarding population of leopard is not available in the Ministry as no nationwide census of leopard population has been undertaken in the country.

(c) to (e) The details of poaching of leopards are not collected in the Ministry. However, there is no report with the Government indicating that the poaching of leopard is increasing. However, the Government has taken the following steps to protect wild animals including leopards in the country:

- (i) Legal protection has been provided to wild animals including leopards against hunting and commercial exploitation under the provisions of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.
- (ii) In addition to provision of stringent punishment for the offenders, the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 also provides for forfeiture of any equipment, vehicle or weapon that is used for committing wildlife offence(s).
- (iii) Protected Areas, *viz.*, National Parks, Sanctuaries, Conservation Reserves and Community Reserves covering important wildlife Reserves and Community Reserves covering important wildlife habitats have been created all over the country under the provisions of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 to conserve wild animals including leopards and their habitats.
- (iv) Financial and technical assistance is provided to the State/ Union Territory Governments under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes of 'Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats', 'Project Tiger' and 'Project Elephant' for providing better protection to wildlife, and improvement of its habitat.
- (v) The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has been empowered under the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 to apprehend and prosecute wildlife offenders.

- (vi) The State/Union Territory Governments have been requested to strengthen the field formations and intensify patrolling in and around the Protected Areas.
- (vii) The Wildlife Crime Control Bureau has been set up to ensure co-ordination among various officers and State Governments in connection with the enforcement of law for control of poaching and illegal trade in wildlife and its products.
- (viii) Strict vigil is maintained by the officials of State Departments of Forests and Wildlife.

Flow of untreated sewage into water bodies

3102. SHRI S. THANGAVELU: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that nearly 80 per cent of the sewage generated in India flows untreated into its rivers, lakes and ponds, turning the water sources too polluted to use;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that the untreated sewage flowing into water bodies has almost doubled from around 12,000 million litres a day to 24,000 million litres a day in Class I and II towns; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) to (d) Pollution loads in the major rivers have been increasing over the years due to rapid urbanisation, industrialization and resultant wastewater generation. Extraction of water for irrigation, industrial, drinking purposes etc. leading to inadequate flows is compounding the problem. According to study of CPCB, against an estimated sewage generation of about 38254 million litres per day (mld) from the Class I cities & Class II towns of the country, the treatment capacity is available only for 11787 mld.

Impact of mobile towers on birds

3103. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state: