

(c) whether Government has taken steps to resolve the issue through consultations with local people and State Government authorities; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the stand of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) to (d) There is no proposal for Elephant Corridor project pertaining to Pushpagiri Sanctuary in Karnataka.

#### **Effected climate change on Himalayas**

180. SHRI AMBETH RAJAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the worst effect of climate change is felt in Himalayas and rivers originating from there; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) and (b) Studies conducted by the Geological Survey of India projects likely impacts of glacier melting in Himalayan region, changes in river hydrology, increased debris production and siltation of rivers in downstream regions. Scientific studies and assessments relating to climate change report titled "Climate Change and India: 4x4 Assessment- A Sectoral and Regional Analysis for 2030s" also projects that there is likelihood of impacts of climate change in 2030s on "Agriculture, Natural ecosystem, Biodiversity, Human health and Water" in Himalayan region.

#### **Environmental clearance for Left Bank and Right Bank Canals in Odisha**

181. SHRI PYARIMOHAN MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Odisha has applied for environment and forest clearances for execution of Left Bank Canal, Phase-II, and Right Bank Canal;

(b) if so, when;

(c) the steps taken to expedite the clearances in view of the importance of

these canals for higher agricultural productions; and

(d) the reasons for delay, if any, and the time by which the clearances are expected to be given?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) to (d) The Government of Odisha applied for environmental clearance (EC) for execution of Left Bank Canal (LBC) and Right Bank Canal (RBC) including a barrage in Odisha under the Rengali Irrigation Project in April, 1996 and the Government had granted necessary EC vide dated 4.12.1996. Stage-I approval for 2107 ha of forest land was granted by the Ministry vide letter 21.11.1996 and State-II clearance for 812 ha forest land vide letter 14.5.2003 in the first Phase involving entire reservoir and portions of LBC and RBC systems of the project. For the construction of remaining portions of LBC and RBC system in the 2nd Phase, Stage-II Clearance is required for the balance 1295 ha of forest land. For this purpose, complete compliance reports on the stipulations imposed in the Stage-I and Stage-II (part) approval are to be submitted by the Government of Odisha.

#### **Indiscriminate felling of trees in Delhi**

182. SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that various agencies are engaged in indiscriminate felling of trees on the pretext of development in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) whether some agencies have cut trees in Delhi recently without any prior permission from the Ministry; and

(d) if so, the action taken against such agencies to further check on the cutting of trees in Delhi and other parts of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) and (b) No reports regarding indiscriminate felling of trees on the pretext of development by various agencies have been received in the Ministry. However, sporadic incidents of tree felling do