

(v) Agartala-Sabroom

(vi) Jiribam-Imphal

East-West Corridor: Total length of the Corridor in NER is 670 kms. Initially the Corridor was targeted for completion in 2008-09. Currently 472 kms. (69%) of the corridor has been completed. Revised target for completion is 2014.

The steps taken for accelerating the pace of implementation of projects *inter-alia* includes strengthening of field units of National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) and Border Roads Organisation (BRO) in NE and focusing on effective execution of projects and also setting of an Empowered Committee to monitor progress of projects besides putting in place more robust and result-oriented management system.

Global warming impact on Himalayan glacier

2027. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the global warming has an impact on Himalayan glacier;

(b) if the Himalayan glacier and Antarctica ice shelf melt and fall on sea, whether there would be any adverse impact on Indian subcontinent; and

(c) whether Government has any information in this regard and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) As per the studies conducted by the Geological Survey of India, the glaciers in Himalayan region are receding at varying rates in different regions. As per these findings, recession of glaciers could be the result from natural cyclic processes and other factors including, *inter-alia*, global warming.

(b) and (c) No such studies have so far been carried out to address such issues.

Dumping of wastage in Yamuna banks

2028. SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that debris and other house-hold wastages are continued to be dumped in the Yamuna banks;

(b) whether Government is seized of this menace; if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some apex body has given some time-limit to local bodies and others by which they deposit such health-hazard on the banks of the river; if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action plan of Government to control illegal land-grab and construction on such lands in the Yamuna Bed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) to (c) An Application No. 06/2012 has been filed before Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (NGT) regarding removal of debris, solid wastes, construction material, etc., lying along the banks of river Yamuna. The NGT *vide* its order dated 22nd July, 2013, has directed all concerned agencies to remove this debris by 15th August, 2013.

As per the information provided by the concerned agencies, Delhi Development Authority has removed 101,500 cubic metres (m³) of debris, Public Works Department and Irrigation and Flood Control Department of Delhi Government have removed 20,000 m³ of debris, Uttar Pradesh Irrigation Department has removed 71,000 m³ of debris and Delhi Metro Rail Corporation has removed approximately 73,000 metric tonnes of construction and demolition waste from their jurisdiction.

(d) The Ministry has issued Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification, 2006 which stipulates that all development activities, including construction, which are listed in the said Notification requires necessary clearances under the Notification. Violation of the notification attracts punitive action under Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. Under the provision of EIA Notification, 2006, environmental clearance for building and construction and township and area development projects are appraised by the State Level Expert Appraisal Committee (SEACs) and approved by the State Environmental Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA). Further, State Governments issue Notifications/Notices from time to time to not take up construction on the river flood plain.

Tiger Protection Force for 'Project Tiger'

2029. SHRI V.P. SINGH BADNORE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) when did the NTCA decide for having Tiger Protection Force for 'Project Tiger' in India, the details thereof;

(b) how many 'Project Tigers' have Tiger Protection Force and what is the strength of this Force; and

(c) how much fund has been allocated for the above, the details thereof?