

- (xiv) Strengthening of public transport including establishment of metro rail in a few select metropolitan cities.
- (xv) National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) was released on June 30, 2008. Two of the eight National Missions *i.e.* National Solar Mission and National Mission on Enhanced Energy Efficiency relate to mitigation of emissions and include ambitious programmes aimed at generating solar power and conserving energy. Energy Efficiency mission envisages setting norms for achieving energy efficiency under Perform, Achieve and Trade Scheme.

Increasing mining of sand on river beds

2038. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the National Green Tribunal ordered a nationwide stay on sand mining on river beds; if so, the details thereof; and
- (b) whether it is a fact that the country has been witnessing increasing mining of sand on river beds; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) and (b) The National Green Tribunal (NGT) order of 5th August, 2013 in Original Application No. 171 of 2013 restrains any person, company, authority to carry out any mining activity or removal of sand, from river beds anywhere in the country without obtaining Environmental Clearance from the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF)/State Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA) and license from the competent authorities.

Sand mining is regulated in terms of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 and the Minor Mineral Concession Rules framed by the State Government there under. Further, the projects of sand mining require prior environmental clearance. For any violation, the necessary legal action would be taken.

Decision regarding reducing of carbon emission

†2039. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government has taken decision to reduce carbon emission by 20 per cent to 25 per cent in the country during 2005 to 2020;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.