Environmental degradation costs

2043. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the World Bank report entitled 'Diagnostic Assessment of Select Environmental Challenges in India' released recently stated that the environmental degradation costs India \$80 billion annually, and if so, the details of the report; and
- (b) the concrete steps that the Ministry is taking to rectify the lacunae pointed out in the report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) The World Bank has submitted the Report titled 'Diagnostic Assessment of Select Environmental Challenges in India' to the Government of India. The report States *inter-alia*, "The report estimates the total cost of environmental degradation in India at about Rs. 3.75 trillion (US\$ 80 billion) annually".

(b) The Report is being examined in the Government.

Forest destroyed due to fire

2044. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that one-third of forest in our country and other countries also like Malaysia and Indonesia are destroyed due to forest fire; and
- (b) how much forest area in India, State-wise is destroyed by forest fire and what are the steps taken by Government to check the forest fire?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) As per the report "Vulnerability of India's Forests to Fires" brought out in the year 2012 by Forest Survey of India (FSI), Dehradun, 15.06% of the forest area of the country is vulnerable to forest fire.