

Failure of Delhi Forest Department

2045. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Forest Department of Delhi has failed to protect and augment greenery in the capital mainly due to the severe staff and resource crunch; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and what measures are being taken to solve the problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) and (b) As per the reply received from the Government of NCT of Delhi, it is not true that the Forest Department of Delhi has failed to protect and augment greenery in the capital. According to the India State of Forest Report 2011, the forest and tree cover of Delhi is 296.2 sq. km. which is 19.97% of its geographical area.

Greening activities in NCT of Delhi are co-ordinated by the Department of Forests and Wildlife, Government of NCT of Delhi with different agencies of the State Government like Public Works Department, Delhi Development Authority, Delhi Cantonment Board, Central Government agencies like Central Public Works Department, Eco Task Force and local bodies like New Delhi Municipal Corporation, Municipal Corporation of Delhi etc.

Loss of environmental degradation

2046. SHRIMATI VASANTHI STANLEY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the World Bank has reported that the annual loss of environmental degradation is worth Rs. 3.75 trillion;

(b) whether it is also a fact that 25 per cent of child mortality is caused due to poor water supply; and

(c) the specific steps taken by the Ministry to improve the overall situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) The World Bank has submitted the Report titled 'India Diagnostic Assessment of Select Environmental Challenges' 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". The Report is being examined by the Government.

(b) Poor water supply is not a direct cause of deaths in children. However, drinking of unsafe water is responsible for water-borne diseases which can cause morbidity and mortality in children. As per WHO estimates, 11% of Child mortality in the age group of 0-5 years in India is due to Diarrhoeal disease.

(c) The Government of India provides financial and technical assistance to States under the National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) to supplement their efforts to provide adequate safe drinking water to the rural population. A budgetary allocation of Rs. 11,000 crores has been provided for NRDWP in 2013-14. Under NRDWP, the Government of India has given priority to cover partially covered and quality affected habitations with safe drinking water. Upto 67% of the allocations made to States under NRDWP can be utilized for coverage of partially covered and quality affected habitations. 5% of NRDWP allocation is earmarked for allocation to those States facing problems of chemical contamination in drinking water or with Japanese Encephalitis and Acute Encephalitis Syndrome affected high priority districts.

Clearance to atomic plant in Jaitapur

2047. SHRI P. RAJEEVE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state whether the Ministry has given clearance to the proposed atomic plant in the Jaitapur, Maharashtra, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): The Ministry has accorded environmental clearance to Jaitapur Nuclear Power Park (6×1650 MWe) at Village Madban, Taluka Rajapur, District Ratnagiri, Maharashtra by M/s Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd. (NPCIL) *vide* letter no. J-14011/1/2009-IA.II (N) dated 26th November, 2010.

Agitation to stop killing of animals for research

2048. SHRI S. THANGAVELU: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been a wide-spread agitation to stop killings of animals for scientific research purposes, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that the agitators have demanded carrying of animals in flights, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) and (b) As per the information