

(a) whether Government has received a proposal for diversion of land in Kutch Desert Sanctuary and Wild Ass Sanctuary, Gujarat for construction of road from Gaduli-Santalpur;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the response of Government thereto in view of the strategic and security importance of this area?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Environment and Forests had received a proposal from the Government of Gujarat for diversion of 79.474 ha of forest land in Kutch Desert Wildlife Sanctuary and Wild Ass Sanctuary for construction of Gaduli to Hajipur-Odma-Khavda-Kunaria-Dholavira-Maovana-Gadakbet-Santalpur Road (S.H. Road). The proposal involves development of new roads passing through Flamingo nesting area, ecologically important mangrove areas, to meet needs of the Border Security Forces (BSF). Since the proposal involves diversion of land from Wildlife Sanctuary, it was placed for consideration of the Standing Committee of National Board for Wildlife in its meeting held on 25th April, 2011. The Committee decided to carry out a site inspection before taking a view in the matter. The site inspection report was considered by the Standing Committee of National Board for Wildlife in its 25th Meeting held on 13th June, 2012, 26th meeting held on 31st October, 2012 and 27th meeting held on 12th December 2012. Standing Committee have advised the project proponents to submit a revised proposal keeping in view the recommendation in the site inspection report.

#### **Diversion of Zudpi forest land for International airport**

3729. DR. BHARATKUMAR RAUT: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has received a proposal from the State Government of Maharashtra for diversion of Zudpi forest land for developing World Class Multi-model International Airport hub near the existing Nagpur airport;

(b) the details of the present status of the proposal and reasons of delay in granting approval thereof; and

(c) by when the final approval will be accorded by the Central Government to the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. A proposal for diversion of 9.17 ha of Zudpi jungle for developing World Class Multimodel International Hub Airport in Nagpur District was received. The proposal was granted "In-principle" approval on 13 March 2012. Final approval depends upon receipt of the compliance of the conditions of the "In-principle" approval, which is awaited from the State Government.

**Increased pollution level in Delhi**

‡3730. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that pollution level has increased five times in the last eight years in National Capital, Delhi;

(b) whether it is also a fact that nitrogen oxide level in air is 50 to 55 microgram per cubic meter and respirable suspended particulate matter has increased four times and become 250 microgram per cubic meter; and

(c) if so, the reasons for increase in pollution and the steps being taken by Government to control it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) and (b) The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) and Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) are monitoring ambient air in Delhi. As per data provided by CPCB, the levels of Sulphur Dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>) are within the norms and showing a decreasing trend since 2001. The levels (annual averages) of Respirable Suspended Particulate Matter (RSPM/PM<sub>10</sub> (particulate matter having aerodynamic diameter less than or, equal to 10 micron) and Nitrogen Dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) are exceeding the notified standards. There is a fluctuating trend. Nitrogen Oxide (NO) is not a notified pollutant.

(c) Emissions from vehicles, suspended road side dust, industries, thermal power plants, construction activities, etc. are the main sources of air pollution. Steps taken by the Central Government for controlling air pollution include supply of improved auto-fuel, tightening of vehicular and industrial emission norms, mandatory environmental clearance for specified industries, management of municipal, hazardous and bio-medical wastes, promotion of cleaner technologies, strengthening the network of air quality monitoring stations, source apportionment

‡Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.