

(c) if so, what were the main objections and Government's reaction to these objections?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) to (c) The environmental clearance for development of Airport at Mallappuzhasserry, Aranmula and Kidangannur villages, Kozhencherry Taluk, Pathanamthitta District, Kerala was granted on 18.11.2013 after following due procedure under the Environment Impact Assessment Notification, 2006. Earlier, the Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC) in its meeting held on 21st-23rd September, 2010 recommended issuance of ToRs. The ToRs for the project were accorded on 13.10.2010. Public Hearing was conducted on 10.05.2011 at Pathanamthitta District Collectorate. The project along with final Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) report and public hearing proceedings was considered by the EAC in its meetings held in September, 2011, December, 2011 and August, 2012. The EAC, after due consideration of the relevant documents submitted by the project proponent and additional clarifications furnished in response to its observations, recommended the project for grant of Environment Clearance. Several representations were received against the project. The main objections were that the project area includes wetlands and paddy fields. The information/clarifications provided by the Project Proponent and the State Government of Kerala on the issues raised in the representations were examined. The State Government has notified the project site for the development of the Airport and stated that the project site is not a notified wetland and decline in agricultural activities and change in land use pattern contributed to paddy fields becoming fallow lands and lying as such for years together. After examination of all relevant facts, the environmental clearance to the project was granted stipulating various environmental safeguards.

Representation of Industry in the Committee to assess the ecology

790. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is contemplating to set up a committee to look into the issue relating to ecology impact on Hydro Power projects in Uttarakhand that witnessed devastating flash floods recently, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the stand of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Environment and Forests has constituted an Expert Body in accordance with the directions issued by the Hon'ble Supreme Court *vide* judgment dated 13.08.2013 to make a detailed study as to whether hydroelectric power projects existing and under construction in the river basins of Alaknanda, Bhagirathi and their tributaries have contributed to environmental degradation and, if so, to what extent and also whether they have contributed to the tragedy that occurred in Uttarakhand in the month of June, 2013. The committee will also examine the impact of the proposed 24 hydropower projects on the biodiversity of Alaknanda and Bhagirathi river basins.

Violation of environmental norms

791. SHRI ALOK TIWARI:

SHRIMATI KUSUM RAI:

SHRI ARVIND KUMAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether serious violations of environmental norms and illegal constructions by hospitality and tourism companies without prior approval of Government have been reported in the restricted areas of Aravalis in Haryana and Rajasthan, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government has inquired into the violation of green norms in the Aravalis;

(c) if so, the details thereof along with the details of penal action taken against the violators, if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the details of steps Government would take to check flouting of environmental norms in the Aravalis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) As per the information provided by the Governments of Haryana and Rajasthan, a number of cases of violations have been observed in the two States. Haryana State Pollution Control Board (HSPCB) has identified 9 cases of violations against hospitality/tourism companies and action has been initiated against the violators. In addition, HSPCB has also identified 557 nos. of violations by the