

Reasons for not converting a small forest land to Panchayat land

800. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for not converting a small stretch of forest land into Panchayat land located close to Narapally Village Panchayat office under Ranga Reddy district considering the fact that vast area of forest land is already existing; and

(b) whether it is not a fact that deforestation of this small piece of forest land would be materialized for the benefit of its Gram Panchayat Office and its population?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) It has been informed by the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF), Government of Andhra Pradesh that the present Panchayat office of Narapally located close to Narapally village of Ranga Reddy District is falling out side of the existing Narepally-I Reserve Forest block having an extent of area 186.57 hectares which is already notified under section 15 of the Andhra Pradesh Forest Act, 1967 and published in Andhra Pradesh Gazette No. 20, dated 17th May, 2012.

(b) In view of reply to part (a) above, reply to part (b) does not arise.

Thick fog due to fire-crackers after Diwali

801. SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH:

SHRI SALIM ANSARI:

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

(a) whether it is fact that every year after Diwali, the National Capital of Delhi is covered by spell of thick fog due to fire-crackers increasing significantly the air pollution level, if so, complete details in this regard;

(b) whether fluctuating and polluted whether condition after Diwali cause severe health hazards that harm throat track and cause breathing problems, etc.; and

(c) if so, the steps Government proposes to take to ban the bursting of crackers in Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) Ambient air quality in Delhi is monitored by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), Delhi Pollution Control Board, Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology and National Environmental Engineering Institute (NEERI). As per the data provided by CPCB, the levels of Nitrogen Dioxide were higher on next day of Diwali than the Diwali day during last three years. However, levels of Sulphur Dioxide and Particulate Matter have size less than 10 micron (PM_{10}) were lower. Formation of fog is associated with stable metrological conditions in atmosphere.

(b) As reported by CPCB, conclusive reference is not available that fluctuating and polluted weather condition after Diwali causes severe health hazards that harm throat track and cause breathing problems.

(c) Noise limits for sound making fire crackers at manufacturing stage have been notified and implemented by Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organisation. Advertisements are issued for public awareness on the occasion of Diwali. Awareness programmes among students are undertaken through Eco Clubs in Delhi by Government of NCT Delhi.

Funds earmarked to reduce the pollution

802. SHRI Y.S. CHOWDARY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of funds earmarked by the Ministry to reduce the pollution in Yamuna during the last three years;

(b) the details of amount spent during the last three years; and

(c) whether Government is satisfied with the result achieved so far and if not, the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) to (c) Conservation of rivers is an ongoing and collective effort of the Central and State Governments. The Ministry is supplementing the efforts of the State Governments in addressing the problem of pollution of river Yamuna by providing financial assistance to Uttar Pradesh, Delhi and Haryana under Yamuna Action Plan (YAP) since 1993 in a phased manner. A total expenditure of Rs. 1453.17 crore (including State share) has been