(a) whether noise pollution in most parts of Delhi exceeds the safety standard andlimits, if so, the details in this regard; and

(b) the efforts made by Government to reduce the noise pollution level in the city?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) and (b) The ambient noise levels are being monitored at five locations in Delhi since 2011 on 24×7 basis by Central Pollution Control Board. Out of five locations, noise levels are within prescribed norms at one location, *i.e.*, East Arjun Nagar.

Apart from the Noise Pollution (Regulation and Control) Rules, 2000 and ambient noise standards, noise limits for gensets, sound making fire crackers, etc. have been notified. Use of loud speakers, public address system, bursting of sound making fire crackers, blowing of horns in residential and silent zone etc. is regulated under the Noise Pollution (Regulation and Control) Rules, 2000 by designated Authority to control ambient noise levels. The power supply reportedly has been strengthened in Delhi so as to reduce the use of gensets. Traffic lights have been synchronised for certain roads to minimize the stoppage of flow of traffic *vis-a-vis* to reduce the use of horns.

Environmental concerns into planning and development activities

807. SHRI AJAY SANCHETI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a need for integrating environmental concerns into planning and development activities across all sectors in all the States;

(b) if so, whether to achieve this there is a need to include 'Environment' as a concurrent subject in the constitution; and

(c) if so, the efforts being made in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) The National Environment Policy adopted in 2006 is a guide to action in integrating environmental concerns into planning and development activities.

(b) and (c) The existing legislations/framework/institutional mechanisms are sufficient to mainstream environmental concerns in all planning and development activities. The inclusion of 'Environment' as a concurrent subject in the Constitution is, therefore, not desirable at this stage.

Land covered under environment conservation

†808. SHRIMATI BIMLA KASHYAP SOOD: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of hectares of land (in lakhs) covered under environment conservation and afforestation in the year 2010-11 and 2012-13 in all the districts of the country, especially in Himachal Pradesh;

(b) the amount utilized by Government of Himachal Pradesh for this purpose and the complete details of funds provided by Central Government; and

(c) whether Central Government proposes to provide at least 50 percent of the total amount spent by Himachal Pradesh and other States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Environment and Forests is implementing a Centrally Sponsored scheme of National Afforestation Programme (NAP) for eco-restoration of degraded forests through people's participation in the country. The scheme is being implemented through a decentralized mechanism of State Forest Development Agency (SFDA) at State level, Forest Development Agency (FDA) at District level and Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMC) at village level. Under NAP scheme, 100% grant is provided by the Central Government to the programme States and till date, a grant of 3209.33 crores has been released to them for afforestation over an area of two million hectares. Out of this, an amount of Rs. 71.91 crores has been released and utilised by the 36 FDAs of the State of Himachal Pradesh for afforestation over an area of 51453 ha. The State-wise details of the funds released and area approved during the last three years and the current year including Himachal Pradesh under NAP is given in the Statement-I and II.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.