

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) and (b) 'In principle' approval (Stage-I) was accorded on 12/03/2012 for diversion of 10.96 hectares and 9.17 hectares of Zudpi jungle for developing world class multi-model International Hub Airport in Nagpur District. The compliance of the conditions stipulated in Stage-I is awaited from the Government of Maharashtra. The final approval (Stage-II) depends upon receipt of the compliance of the conditions from the State Government.

#### **National Level Regulator**

2350. SHRI ARVIND KUMAR SINGH:

SHRI PRABHAT JHA:

SHRIMATI KUSUM RAI:

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

(a) whether Hon'ble Supreme Court in its recent verdict has directed Government to set up a National Regulator which would take comprehensive environment impact assessment of projects, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the details of action taken by Central Government to set up a National Level Regulator to carry out independent, objective and transparent appraisal and approval of projects for environmental clearance in response to the verdict of Hon'ble Apex Court?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Supreme Court *vide* its order dated 6.1.2014 in IA Nos. 1868, 2091, 2225-27, 2380, 2568 and 2937 in Writ Petition (C) No. 202 of 1995 has *inter-alia* directed the Government of India to set up a Regulator for appraising projects, enforcing environmental conditions for approvals and to impose penalties on the polluters. The court has directed that the notification appointing the Regulator be filed along with affidavit in the court by 31.3.2014. The matter is under examination.

#### **Disappearance of water bodies in and around Delhi**

2351. SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the water bodies in and around Delhi region are disappearing due to rise in pollution and other factors;

(b) whether several species of birds have been forced to flee to forests due to loss of habitat;

(c) whether it is because the local people are dumping debris and plastic waste into such bodies that gives a rise to pollution; and

(d) the action plan of Government to address this serious issue?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) A few water bodies in and around Delhi region have reportedly been impacted due to rapid urbanization, various developmental activities, pollution problems and other anthropogenic pressures.

(b) There are no reports received in this regard.

(c) and (d) As per studies undertaken by Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) in the capital during 2001-02, water bodies in Delhi were facing environmental threats, also due to dumping of municipal and other wastes. Based on the findings, CPCB has made certain recommendations to the Government of NCT of Delhi for protection and development of these water bodies. These include regular de-silting, de-weeding, bank protection, development of green areas, diversion of sewage, reclamation for rain water harvesting and ground water recharge etc. To check dumping of debris and other wastes in the water bodies, regular field visits and monitoring are undertaken by Government of NCT of Delhi for corrective actions accordingly.

#### **Protection of forest owlets**

2352. DR. CHANDAN MITRA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has allowed capture of critically endangered forest owlets (*Heteroglaux Blewitti*) around Melaghat Tiger Reserve of Maharashtra for a research project;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor; and

(c) the corrective steps taken by Government for protection of forest owlets?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) and (b) The Central Government, Ministry of Environment and Forests,