

(a) whether it is a fact that many environmentalists wanted to review the Regional Plan 2021 concerning many regions of the country, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government has asked the State Governments to come out with their suggestions in this regard; and

(c) if so, the response received by Government from the State Governments?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOIEY): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

#### **Steps taken to arrest and preserve bio-diversity**

2358. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE:

SHRI N.K. SINGH:

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

(a) whether the forests are undergoing a phenomenal shift endangering bio-diversity and causing regional climate changes/dynamics in the country, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether any study has been conducted in this regard, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to arrest and preserve bio-diversity in the country?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOIEY): (a) and (b) A study by Indian Network on Climate Change Assessment (INCCA) titled "Climate Change and India: A 4.4 Assessment- Regional and Sectoral Analysis for 2030s", was published in the year 2010. The report provides an assessment of impact of climate change in 2030s on four key sectors of the Indian economy, namely Agriculture, Water, Natural Ecosystems & Biodiversity and Health in four climate sensitive regions of India, namely the Himalayan region, the Western Ghats, the Coastal Area and the North-East Region. Further the report indicates the impact of climate change on forests including shifts in forest type boundary, change in net primary productivity and biomass and carbon accumulation rates. However, there is no specific study indicating that phenomenal shifts in forests is endangering biodiversity and causing regional climate change/dynamics in the country.

(c) Some important steps taken by the Government for conservation of biological diversity *inter-alia* include: survey and inventorisation of floral and faunal resources; assessment of forest cover to develop an accurate database for planning and monitoring; establishment of a Protected Area network of National Parks, Wildlife Sanctuaries, Conservation and Community Reserve designating Biosphere Reserves for conservation of representative ecosystems; species oriented programmes, such as Project Tiger and Project Elephant, complemented with ex-situ conservation efforts. In addition, Biological Diversity Act 2002 and Rules thereunder aim to conserve biological resources of the country and regulation of access to these resources to ensure equitable sharing of benefits arising out of their use. A National Biodiversity Authority and State Biodiversity Boards have been set up for implementing the provisions of the Act.

**Noise level above the limits in metro city**

2359. SHRI D.P. TRIPATHI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that noise levels in almost every metro city is always above the prescribed limits, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the steps that Government is taking to curb the noise pollution?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOIEY): (a) Ambient noise levels are monitored under the National Ambient Noise Monitoring Programme (NANMP) in seven metro cities, namely Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Hyderabad, Bengaluru and Lucknow on 24.7 basis at 35 locations (five stations in each city) since March, 2011 by respective State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs) and the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB). The network to monitor ambient noise levels is coordinated by CPCB at national level. Noise levels are above the prescribed norms at a majority of locations whereas these are within norms at some locations like: one station (East Arjun Nagar) in Delhi, two stations (Peenia and Marathali) in Bangalore, two stations (Gole Park and Head Office of West Bengal Pollution Control Board) in Kolkata, etc.

(b) Apart from establishing National Ambient Noise Monitoring Network, noise standards have been notified and are implemented at manufacturing stage for gensets, sound making fire crackers, automobiles and certain construction machines/equipments.