

(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.