

earthen bunds with removable synthetic liners at bottom, etc. The guidelines have been circulated to all States and Union Territories for implementation.

**Objectives of formation of green tribunal**

2819. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the aims and objectives of formation of Green Tribunal have been achieved, the number of benches and judges in Green Tribunal and whether Green Tribunal has been able to dispose all cases in time; and

(b) the number of case judgements that have already been pronounced and how many Institutions and individuals offenders have been punished?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY) : (a) The NGT has been established under NGT Act, 2010 on 18th October, 2010 for the effective and expeditious adjudication cases relating to environmental protection and conservation of forests and other natural resources including enforcement of any legal right relating to environment and giving relief and compensation for damages to persons and property and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto. There are presently two Benches at Principal Bench, New Delhi and one Bench each at its Zonal Benches *i.e.* Southern Zone Bench at Chennai, Central Zone Bench at Bhopal and Western Zone Bench at Pune, Another Zonal Bench *i.e.* Eastern Zone Bench at Kolkata is being operationalized soon. Presently, beside the Chairperson, there are 7 Judicial Members and 10 Expert Members. As per provision of Rule 18 of National Green Tribunal (Practice and Procedure) Rule, 2011, cases are heard and decided finally, as far as possible, within six months from the date of their filing.

(b) Since the establishment of NGT on 18th October, 2010, 2212 cases have been disposed of by the NGT till 31.1.2014, by way of order/judgement. No offenders have been punished by the NGT so far.

**Rigidity in Environment and Forest Protection Act**

2820. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that in India inspite of rigidity in Environment and