

Forest Protection Act there are serious violations because of inadequate, inefficient and corrupt implementing machinery and abnormal delay in courts for disposing the case; and

(b) if so, the total number of forest and wild animals poaching and smuggling cases that are pending in different courts, State-wise and the strategy for early disposal of these cases?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY) : (a) and (b) Appropriate implementation mechanism is in place to ensure effective enforcement of the provisions under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. In case of violation of any provision under these statutes, action as per law is taken.

As regards the wildlife related cases, the complaints for trial of offences are filed in the criminal courts in the State/Union Territories by the Officers empowered by the State/Union Territories Governments under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 for this purpose. In forest related cases involving violation of Indian Forest Act, 1927, action as per law is taken by the concerned State/Union Territory Governments.

Action plan to protect the forest

2821. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether India has achieved the United Nations' Millenium Development Goals target, if not, the reasons therefor; and

(b) whether India has any separate exclusive action plan to protect the forest and environment and reduce the impact of pollution, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY) : (a) and (b) Under Millenium Development Goals (MDGs), MDG-7 is titled as "Ensure environmental sustainability". Target-9 under this Goal, *i.e.* "Integrate the principle of sustainable development into country policies and programmes and reverse the loss of environmental resources", *inter-alia*, relates to the programmes

and functions of the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF). As per the Report titled "Millennium Development Goals India Country Report-2014" taken out by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, the progress achieved by India relating to Target-9 is stated as "Moderately on track". As per this Report, as per 2011 assessment, the country has forest cover of 692027 sq. km., which is 21.05 % of the country's geographical area. The National Afforestation Programme (NAP) implemented by MoEF is a participatory approach to sustainable development of forests. India is one of the 17 mega diverse countries with 4 global bio-diversity hot spots. The network of protected areas in India presently covers about 5.06 % of the country's total geographical area. The National Mission for Green India is one of the eight missions under the National Action Plan on climate change which, *inter-alia*, aims at increasing forest/tree cover on 5 million ha of forest/non-forest lands and improve quality of forest cover on another 5 million ha (*i.e.* a total of 10 million ha).

The Forest Conservation Act, 1980 aims at conserving the forests and the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 aims at protecting and improving the environment in the country.

Forest areas diverted for non-forest purpose

2822. SHRIMATI RENUMBALA PRADHAN : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

- (a) the forest areas in the country diverted for the non-forest purpose in the last five years;
- (b) the details thereof, State-wise and forest lands diverted for different purposes;
- (c) the details of the forests regenerated during the same period in lieu of the loss of the forest land, State-wise; and
- (d) the expenditure made during the period for regeneration of the forests, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY) : (a) and (b) The Ministry of Environment and Forests, during the last five