

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR): (a) There is no proposal to link wildlife sanctuaries in each State under consideration of the Ministry.

(b) Does not arise.

Illegal Wildlife Shipment

3860. SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that a tightly knit cross-country poaching network in wild life is operating in India and it is depleting India's forests of its magnificent wildlife:

(b) whether such a network is in existence at certain borders States in the country, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether most of the illegal wildlife shipment, carried by human couriers, is sent through certain specific border points dodging Indian patrols, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR): (a) and (b) The data available with the Ministry does not reveal any tightly knit cross country poaching network operating in India. However, Indian wildlife is under stress from poaching and illegal trade in wildlife and their parts. The poaching is caused primarily by three reasons: (i) for consumption and local petty trade, (ii) due to human-wildlife conflict; and (iii) for illegal trade. Illegal trade in wildlife is demand driven and the demand is mainly from the urban centers and destinations abroad. The dynamics of illegal wildlife trade involves multiple layers of operators starting with poaching in wildlife habitats, passing through multiple layers of middlemen while in transit, before reaching the final consumer destination. Each of these modules is opportunistic and mostly operate independent of each other.

(c) No specific data is available with the Ministry indicating smuggling of wildlife and products through certain specific border points. However, inputs do indicate smuggling by human carriers and certain areas on the Indian borders are sensitive to such offences. Some of the most sensitive areas for such smuggling are as under:

(i) Dharchula (Uttarakhand)

(ii) Palla (UP)

(iii) Sonauli (UP)

- (iv) Bahraich (Uttar Pradesh)
- (v) Raxaul (Bihar)
- (vi) Panitanki (West Bengal)
- (vii) Jaigaon (West Bengal)
- (viii) Moreh (Manipur)
- (ix) Zokhawthar (Mizoram)
- (x) Ladakh (Jammu and Kashmir),
- (xi) Spiti and Kinnaur (Himachal Pradesh)
- (xii) Basirhat (West Bengal)

Emitting of cancer-causing chemicals by energy saving bulbs

3861. SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether energy saving bulbs emit cancer-causing chemicals when switched on, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether certain international studies have confirmed the above menace;
- (c) whether these agencies have suggested certain remedial measures to control this hazards, if so, the detail thereof;
- (d) whether broken green bulbs are equally health -hazard; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof, *inter-alia* indicating the action plan of Government to control the above menace?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR): (a) to (e) As reported by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), there is a small amount of mercury in Compact Fluorescent Lamps (CFL) for the functioning of the bulb. There is no exposure to mercury using CFLs as long as they are not broken. In case of the broken bulb, the exposure to mercury is negligible as compared to other mercury bearing products; for example- clinical instruments. However, long exposure to mercury is known to have adverse impact on human health. The recent international reports suggest that CFLs also release several other carcinogenic chemicals and toxins like phenol, naphthalene and styrene including ultraviolet radiations when CFLs are switched on.