

through Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change is filing an application for seeking extension of time.

There is no proposal to set up 'National Regulator' for framing and monitoring zonal disaster management plans.

The ambient air quality and water quality are monitored by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) in association with concerned State Pollution Control Boards/ Pollution Control Committees. The water quality data indicates that the rivers are polluted downstream of major urban centres. A mixed trend is observed as far as air pollution is concerned. CPCB has not undertaken any study relating to water pollution and public health.

#### **Reconstitution of National Board of Wild Life (NBWL)**

918. SHRI AAYANUR MANJUNATHA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the National Board of Wild Life (NBWL) is being re-constituted shortly, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the matters pending for clearance of NBWL during the last one year; and
- (c) the action/steps proposed to be taken by the Ministry on the decision of Supreme Court and National Green Tribunal pertaining to Environmental Clearance (EC) for mineral leases of less than 5 hectares area?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR): (a) The term of office of members of the National Board for Wildlife (NBWL), other than those who are members *ex-officio*, ended on 4 September 2013. Accordingly, the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change has initiated action for reconstitution of the National Board for Wildlife.

(b) The number of matters pending for clearance of NBWL during the last one year are as follows:

Proposals considered during previous meetings for decision by the Standing Committee of NBWL	72
Fresh proposals falling within Protected Areas	43
Fresh proposals falling within 10 kms from Protected Areas	56
Incomplete proposals	62
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>233</b>

(c) Pursuant to the Supreme Court judgment dated 27.02.2012 in I.A Nos. 12-13 of 2011 in Special Leave Petition (Civil) No. 19628-16929 of 2009 titled Deepak Kumar etc. *Vs.* State of Haryana and Ors., the handling of prior environment clearance cases of mining of minor minerals, including sand, of lease area up to 5 ha. was delegated by the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change to the concerned State Environment Impact Assessment Authorities (SEIAAs) *vide* Office Memorandum No. L-11011/47/2011-IA.II (M) dated 18.05.2012. Further, the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change has issued an amendment to the Environment Impact Assessment Notification 2006 *vide* S.O. 2731(E) dated 09.09.2013. The environment clearance cases of minor mineral mining projects upto 5 hectares are considered at the State level by the concerned State Environment Impact Assessment Authority.

#### **Eco-system of Western Ghats**

919. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Western Ghats region is facing pressure of increasing population on land and vegetation, if so, magnitude of this pressure;
- (b) whether factors generated by the pressure have contributed to the ecological and environmental problems in the region, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the findings of Gadgil Committee and Kasturirangan Committee on these issues;
- (d) in what manner Government propose to deal with the situation so as to protect fragile eco-system of the Western Ghats; and
- (e) the present position regarding Jaitapur Nuclear Power Plant in Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR): (a) and (b) The Western Ghats is not only home to the rich biodiversity, but also supports a population of approximately fifty million people and also include areas of high human population density. The transformation of the landscape may have affected the ecosystems of the Western Ghats.

(c) The Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change had constituted the Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel (WGEEP) under the Chairmanship of Prof.