

impacts and risks can be reduced and managed through adaptation. Further, the report also assesses needs, options, opportunities, constraints, resilience, limits and other aspects associated with adaptation.

(c) Eight National Missions form the core of the National Action Plan, representing multi-pronged, long-term and integrated strategies for achieving key goals in the context of climate change. State Action Plans on Climate Change have also been prepared to develop state specific measures. A National Adaptation Fund on Climate Change has been established to provide support for augmenting adaptation activities.

Steps taken for conservation of sloth bears

921. DR. CHANDAN MITRA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that a large number of sloth bears are being killed by the poachers in various parts of the country because of the medicinal qualities of various organs of the animal;

(b) if so, the number of killing incidents of sloth bear reported in the country during the last three years, State-wise and year-wise; and

(c) the fresh steps taken by Government for conservation of sloth bears-a vulnerable species in International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) list?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The bears are occasionally killed by poachers in various part of the country for its organ trade including for its stated medicinal values. However, the medicinal values have not been proved.

The State-wise and year-wise details of such incidents, as reported by the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau, during the last three years are as under:

State	Year		
	2011	2012	2013
1	2	3	4
Uttarakhand	3	1	1
Madhya Pradesh	2	2	0

1	2	3	4
Maharashtra	0	2	3
Rajasthan	0	1	0
Tamil Nadu	0	1	0
TOTAL	5	7	4

(c) The Government has taken following steps for protection of wild animals including sloth bear in the country:

- (i). Protected Areas, viz., National Parks, Sanctuaries, Conservation Reserves and Community Reserves covering important wildlife habitats have been created all over the country under the provisions of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 to conserve wild animals and their habitats.
- (ii). Legal protection has been provided to wild animals including sloth bear against hunting and commercial exploitation under the provisions of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.
- (iii). In addition to provision of stringent punishment for the offenders, the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 also provides for forfeiture of any equipment, vehicle or weapon that is used for committing wildlife offence(s).
- (iv). Financial and technical assistance is provided to the State/ Union Territory Governments under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes for providing better protection to wildlife including endangered species and improvement of its habitat.
- (v). The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has been empowered under the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 to apprehend and prosecute wildlife offenders.
- (vi). The State/Union Territory Governments have been requested to strengthen the field formations and intensify patrolling in and around the Protected Areas.
- (vii). The Wildlife Crime Control Bureau has been set up to ensure coordination among various officers and State Governments in connection with the enforcement of law for control of poaching and illegal trade in wildlife and its products.

- (viii). Strict vigil is maintained by the officials of State Departments of Forests and Wildlife.

WHO's latest surveys of polluted cities

922. SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR ROY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether World Health Organization's Report of May, 2014 described Delhi as the most polluted city of the world;
- (b) whether as per WHO's latest surveys India has the world's worst air pollution, and has 13 of the 20 most polluted cities of the world;
- (c) whether a 2014 study by Yale University ranked India 155th out of 178 nations on an overall environmental performance index;
- (d) whether Government concurs with these reports and surveys as mentioned; and
- (e) if so, the plan of action under contemplation to arrest such alarming pollution; and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR): (a) and (b) World Health Organisation (WHO) has recently released Ambient Air pollution Database-update 2014 considering two pollutants PM_{10} (particulate matter having size equal to or less than 10 micron) and $PM_{2.5}$ (particulate matter having size equal to or less than 2.5 micron) for 1628 cities. WHO report describes Delhi as most polluted city and ranked 13 cities of India out of 20 most polluted cities of the world while considering estimated data for fine dust ($PM_{2.5}$) in select manner which is improper.

(c) Yes, Sir. A report on Environmental Performance Index (EPI) 2014 has been produced jointly by a team of experts in Yale University and Columbia University which ranks countries on the basis of their environment performance. The report has ranked 178 countries based on 20 indicators tracked across nine areas. One of these areas is air quality considering $PM_{2.5}$. India's EPI rank is 155.

(d) No, Sir. WHO has ranked the cities in the world while estimating the levels of fine dust in ambient air of various cities. The report of the Yale University and Columbia University has considered only $PM_{2.5}$ as the pollutant (fine dust) relying on satellite data in place of actual monitored data though data is available. National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) notified by the Government envisage 12 pollutants whereas both the reports have relied on either one or two pollutants only.