Pollution by big industries in Chhattisgarh

†924. DR. BHUSHAN LAL JANGDE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether controlling pollution caused by big industries in Chhattisgarh is under the State Government;

(b) whether it is a fact that there is minimal control on pollution in cement, iron ore, aluminium factories in Chhattisgarh;

(c) whether environmental rules are not being followed in the factories of Korba and Raigarh and Central Government would taken punitive action against the responsible people; and

(d) the steps Government purpose to take to save the land turning barren due to emission of pollutants from the factories?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR): (a) Under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981, the State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs) are responsible for ensuring compliance to effluent and emission norms by an industry in the respective State.

(b) As per the provisions laid down under the Water and Air Acts, any industry including cement, iron ore or aluminium discharging trade effluent or releasing emission have to take consent from the SPCBs. In the consent to operate granted by the State Board, environmental norms for effluent quality/emissions are prescribed which the industries have to comply. The environmental norms are prescribed after following a rigrous procedures and consultation with stakeholders.

(c) Of the 17 category of Highly Polluting Industries (HPI), 78 industries have been identified in Chhattisgarh. Besides these, 12 iron-ore mining industries are also present. The primarily responsibility for enforcement of pollution control norms in these industries vest with the SPCBs. As per the information provided by Chhattisgarh Environment Conservation Board, out of these 78 industries, 71 industries are complying with the prescribed standards, 6 industries are non-complying and 1 industry is closed.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) under its Environment Surveillance Squad Programme also inspected 28 industries under the 17 categories of highly polluting industries during the last 3 years including cement industries. Out of 9 cement industries, 2 industries have been found non-complying. Accordingly, Directions under Section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 have been issued to defaulting cement industries for upgradation of air pollution control devices.

(d) The CPCB has not carried out any study to save the land turning barren due to emission of pollutants from the factories. However, industries are required to take consent from concerned State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs) under the Air Act and adhere to the prescribed emission standards, failing which appropriate action is taken as per the law.

Illegal purchase of land of forest department of Uttarakhand

925. SHRI ARVIND KUMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that a large tract of land belonging to Vir Girwali range of forest department in Mussoorie, Dehradun has been illegally purchased/ occupied;

(b) whether the plantation on the said land were illegally felled for clearing the land by the purchaser; if so, the details of the cases;

(c) whether any action has been initiated by the concerned forest Department on persons carrying such illegal activities; if not, the reasons for not taking any action; and

(d) the steps Government proposes to take to free the forest land from such unscrupulous elements and take punitive action against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR): (a) and (b) Yes Sir, as per the reports received from Uttarakhand Forest Department, there has been allegedly illegal purchase of reserve forest land in Bir Girwali area of Rajpur Range, Dehradun (near old Mussoorie road) through sale deed dated 21.11.2012. A total of 25 Sal trees were illegally cut from the reserve forest on 9th March, 2013 and 18th March 2013.The matter is *sub-judice* in the Hon'ble High Court of Uttarakhand, Nainital and Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (NGT), Principal Bench, New Delhi.