

Financial assistance to Corbett National Park

†2321. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Corbett National Park situated in Uttarakhand is a world level park;
- (b) if so, whether Government of India would extend any special economic assistance to prevent the soil erosion due to the rivers flowing inside and outside the park;
- (c) if not, the manner in which Government would save this world level park from the flow of water; and
- (d) if not, whether Government would accept the proposal of the State Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR): (a) to (d) The Corbett Tiger Reserve in Uttarakhand is well known. Under the ongoing Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Project Tiger, central assistance is provided to the said tiger reserve, based on the Annual Plan of Operation from the State for the reserve specific tiger conservation inputs, which, *inter-alia*, include soil and moisture conservation.

Noise pollution in Metro cities

2322. DR. CHANDAN MITRA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that noise pollution in the Metro cities of the country, especially near fly overs has radically gone up to 85 DB;
- (b) if so, the details thereof for big metro cities and the reasons therefor along with the details of standard laid down by the Pollution Control Board in this regard;
- (c) the corrective steps taken by Government in this regard including installation of noise barriers and micro-surfacing of roads; and
- (d) the further steps taken by Government for conducting noise mapping before construction of any flyover or industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR): (a) and (b) The ambient noise levels are monitored in seven metro cities, namely Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Hyderabad, and Lucknow on 24X7 basis at 35 locations. Time series data for

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

last three years is available. One of the ambient noise monitoring stations in Hyderabad *i.e.*, Panjagutta is located next to a flyover and ambient noise levels are ranging between 69.7 to 79.0 dB (A) Leq. Ambient noise levels are exceeding the prescribed standards for both day time (6.00 am to 10.00 pm) and night time (10.00 pm to 6.00 am) at most of the stations including Panjagutta.

The ambient noise standards laid down are: 55 dB (A) Leq and 45 dB (A) Leq for Residential area; 75 dB (A) Leq and 70 dB (A) Leq for Industrial area; 65 dB (A) Leq and 55 dB (A) Leq for Commercial area; and 55 dB (A) Leq and 45 dB (A) Leq for Silence Zone for day and night time, respectively.

(c) and (d) Flyover projects are not covered under the Environment Impact Assessment Notification, 2006. However, flyovers may be integral part of National and State Highways project. For National and State Highways projects, noise monitoring for the entire stretch of the projects is undertaken by the project proponents. Mitigative measures like noise barrier, etc. are suggested in the environment management plan for such projects.

Loss due to fire in forests/hills of Mussoorie

†2323. SHRI ISHWARLAL SHANKARLAL JAIN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether forest resources have suffered a huge loss due to breaking out of fire in the forests/hills of Mussoorie;

(b) whether the causes of the breaking out of fire in the forests of Mussoorie recently have been found out and its probe has been ordered; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR): (a) to (c) As per the report received from the Uttarakhand Forest Department, a forest fire incident was reported on 30th May 2014 in Bhadraj Compartment No. 07 of Mussoorie Forest Division, Uttarakhand. Approximately 1.5 hectare forest area was affected. This fire was immediately controlled by the local staff. No huge loss has been caused to the vegetation and wildlife due to this fire. It is a general practice in the hilly areas that the local villagers set fire to the dried grasses in order to get new flush of grass for their cattle. The reported fire incident could have occurred due to such practice.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.