

The report has taken only PM 2.5 as the pollutant for its analysis and not all the pollutants covered under the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) notified by the Government of India. The report relies on Satellite data in place of actual monitored data and it has also not been peer reviewed.

Review of system of environmental clearance

2331. SHRI AJAY SANCHETI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the present system of environmental clearances for developmental and industrial projects need review;
- (b) if so, the reasons for this review; and
- (c) the changes proposed by Government to cut delays in providing environmental clearances for these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR): (a) to (c) The project proposals for environment clearance are considered as per the procedure prescribed in the Environment Impact Assessment Notification (EIA), 2006, as amended from time to time, which *inter-alia* provides timelines for various stages of clearance process. EIA Notification has been issued under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. The improvement in systems and rationalization of procedures is a continuous process. Some of the recent decisions taken in this regard include mandating online submission of applications for Terms of Reference (ToRs) and Environment Clearance (EC) *w.e.f.* 1st July 2014 with a view to increasing transparency and facilitating expediting the decision making process; and issuing notification S.O. No.1599 (E) dated 25.06.2014 amending the EIA Notification 2006, thereby delegating more powers to the State level Environment Impact Assessment Authorities (SEIAAs) for granting EC and further streamlining the processes.

Steps taken to restore the wetlands

2332. DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether it is a fact that some wetlands in the country have reportedly been impacted due to rapid urbanization, various developmental activities, pollution problems and other anthropogenic pressures, if so, the details thereof; and
- (b) the steps being taken to restore the wetlands?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR): (a) and (b) A few wetlands in the country have reportedly been impacted due to various developmental activities, rapid urbanization, pollution problems and other anthropogenic pressures. For conservation and management of wetlands in the country, the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of National Wetlands Conservation Programme (NWCP) was implemented till the year 2012-13. Under the NWCP, 115 wetlands in 24 States and two Union Territories have been identified for conservation and management. Financial assistance has been provided to the State Governments for various conservation activities like survey and demarcation, catchment area treatment, desilting and dredging, bio-fencing, fisheries development, weed control, biodiversity conservation, pollution abatement, education and awareness and community participation etc. So far, an amount of ₹ 133.64 crores has been released to the concerned State Governments for undertaking the various conservation activities.

To regulate the certain activities within the identified wetlands, the Government of India has notified the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules in December, 2010.

To have better synergy and to avoid overlap, the NWCP has been merged in February, 2013 with another scheme called National Lake Conservation Plan (NLCP) into a new integrated scheme of 'National Plan for Conservation of Aquatic Eco-systems' (NPCA) for holistic conservation of lakes and wetlands.

Torture and killing of Indian soldiers

2333. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to take up the issue of the brutal torture and killing of Captain Saurabh Kalia and five brave soldiers by the Pakistan Army, with the UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC) to declare this heinous act as a "war crime" and move the International Court of Justice to pressure Pakistan to identify and punish all the perpetrators of this brutal crime; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GENERAL (RETD.) V. K. SINGH: (a) and (b) Attention of the international community has already been drawn to these heinous and barbaric acts of the Pakistan army including through our Statement to the UN General Assembly in New York on September 22, 1999, and in our Statement to the Commission on Human Rights on April 6, 2000. The possibility of seeking legal remedies through the international courts was also thoroughly examined but not found feasible.