

clearance process with a view to facilitating timely and objective decision making. The Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change constituted High Level Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri T.S.R. Subramanian, former Cabinet Secretary to Government of India to review various Acts administered by the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, namely (i) Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, (ii) Forests Conservation Act, 1980, (iii) Indian Forests Act, 1927, (iv) Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, (v) Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and (vi) Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981. Based on the comments received from Central Government, State Governments, Civil Societies etc. the report has been finalised and submitted to the Government and is now in the public domain.

Set up of Committee to review the environment laws

2054. PROF. M.V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Committee been set up to review the five main environment laws of the country and if so, the details thereof;

(b) the objective of such an exercise and time frame by which the consultation would conclude;

(c) the details of invitees that have provided inputs to the study over the past few months; and

(d) whether there is a plan to remove all criminal liability for violation of provisions, enumerated in the above mentioned Acts and replace them with civil penalties, and if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change *vide* Office Order No.22-15/2014-IA.III dated 29th August, 2014 has constituted High Level Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri T.S.R. Subramanian, former Cabinet Secretary to Government of India to review various Acts administered by the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, namely (i) Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, (ii) Forests Conservation Act, 1980, (iii) Indian Forests Act, 1927, (iv) Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, (v) Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and (vi) Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 with following Terms of Reference.

- (i) To assess the status of implementation of each of the aforesaid Acts *vis-à-vis* the objectives;
- (ii) To examine and take into account various court orders and judicial pronouncements relating to these Acts;
- (iii) To recommend specific amendments needed in each of these Acts so as to bring them in line with current requirements to meet objectives; and
- (iv) To draft proposed amendments in each of the aforesaid Acts to give effect to the proposed recommendations.

(c) and (d) The comments were received from Central Government, State Governments, Civil Societies etc. based on which the report has been finalised and submitted to the Government and is now in the public domain.

Forest devastation leading to loss of lives due to natural calamities

2055. SHRI C.P. NARAYANAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) how much loss of life and national wealth happened during last two years and so far this year due to natural calamities;

(b) whether it is to prevent further devastation Government intends to amend acts concerning environment, forests and climate change, if so, with what specific objective;

(c) if not, for what other purpose; and

(d) whether Government would assure that it will not resort to steps which may lead to further deterioration of nature ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR): (a) State-wise details of damage due to cyclonic storms, heavy rains, flash floods, landslide, earthquake, etc. during 2012-13, 2013-14 and so far in 2014-15 is given in the Statement (*See below*).

(b) and (c) No, Sir, there is no proposal to amend the laws presently.

(d) The Government programme aims at development with conservation.