

visited the site last year from 16th to 20th December to study the alignment of Hubli-Ankola railway line; and

(c) whether the State Government of Karnataka has fulfilled all requirements in resolving the legal impediments in this regard; and if so, by when it would be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR): (a) to (c) Railway line project do not require environmental clearance under the Environment Impact Assessment Notification, 2006.

Judicial review of NEMA by NGT

2848.SHRI A.K. SELVARAJ: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the TSR Subramanian Committee has recommended greater use of technology for monitoring compliance, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that the said committee has also suggested that the National Green Tribunal to do a judicial review of National Environment Management Authority and State Environment Management Authority, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR): (a) Yes, Sir. The Committee has recommended that the present monitoring processes, exclusively based on physical inspection should be strengthened by induction of technology, measuring instruments incorporating latest improvements; the standard setting and verification systems need to be tightened, to ensure all violators are identified.

(b) Yes, Sir. The Committee in its Report recommended creation of a new 'Umbrella' law - Environmental Laws (Management) Act (ELMA) to enable creation of the institutions namely National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) at the Central level and State Environment Management Authority (SEMA) at the State level as full time processing/clearance/monitoring agencies. Appeals against any decision of the Government on recommendations by NEMA, or on decisions of SEMA, an appeal is provided to a Board constituted by the Government of India presided over by a retired judge of any High Court with 2 senior officers of the rank of Additional Secretary to the Government of India or above having knowledge of subjects involved. The Board will be required to dispose of the appeal within three months after it is lodged and will have

all powers of a first appellate forum including power to reject the appeal summarily and to impose heavy cost against appellants pursuing frivolous matters. ELMA provides that a decision of the Appellate Boards will be subject to judicial review by the National Green Tribunal.

Initiatives to protect the water species

2849.SHRI PANKAJ BORA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of Government initiatives to protect the water species in the country; and
- (b) the progress made by Government during the last five years in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR): (a) and (b) Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) had been earlier implementing separate programmes namely, National Lake Conservation Plan (NLCP) and National Wetland Conservation Programme (NWCP) for conservation of identified lakes and wetlands in the country. Under these Centrally Sponsored Schemes, financial assistance was provided to different States/UTs for conservation and management of identified lakes and wetlands in the country. To avoid overlap and promote better synergies, NLCP has been merged with the scheme of NWCP, into one integrated scheme of National Plan for Conservation of Aquatic Eco-systems (NPCA) in February, 2013. Different conservation activities under the scheme would, amongst other things, also help in protection of water species. During last five years, an amount of ₹317.82 crore was released for implementation of these schemes.

This Ministry has also been supplementing efforts of the State Governments in abatement of pollution in identified stretches of various rivers under the National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) and National Ganga River Basin Authority (NGRBA) programmes for implementation of projects on a cost sharing basis between the Central and State Governments. Pollution abatement works taken up under these programmes would, amongst other things, also help in protection of water species in the stretches of rivers covered.

Under the aegis of NGRBA, one of the endangered species 'Gangetic Dolphins' has been declared as the National Aquatic Animal in the year 2009 under the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972. Aquatic Protected Areas has been created under the provision of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 for the protection of aquatic species.