country and the treatment capacity available. The municipal wastewater generated has increased from the level of 38,254 Million Litres per Day (MLD) during 2008 to about 57,000 MLD in 2015. The sewage treatment capacity has not augmented and a wide gap of more than 37,000 MLD is existing which is the prime cause of increase of water pollution.

The Central and State Pollution Control Boards are implementing the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 to restore water quality. The following steps are taken to prevent and control pollution:

- Control of Industrial pollution under the provision of Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution), Act, 1974;
- Special Drives for 17 categories of industries;
- Environmental auditing;
- Scheme of Common effluent treatment plants for cluster of Small Scale Industrial units;
- Urban centres discharging wastewater in aquatic resources and having no treatment facilities have been identified and recommended for appropriate action to respective authorities;
- Identified urban centres are being considered under various River Action Plans for interception, diversion and development of treatment facilities;
- The depletion of flow in the rivers is one of the major factors for water quality degradation. Steps are being taken to augment flow in rivers for ecological consideration and the respective ministries concerned such as Water Resources and Power are being persuaded to provide adequate flow in the rivers so that rivers can attain its ecological balance including desired water quality for various beneficial uses;
- The rain water harvesting practices implemented in various regions of the country have augmented the depleted water table and consequently improved quality of sub surface water.

Delinking of the clearance under Forest Conservation Act from NBWL

2423. DR. SANJAY SINH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has issued circular which delinks the clearance required under the Forest Conservation Act, 1980 from the National Board for Wildlife (NBWL) for projects located within 10 kms. of the boundaries of Protected Areas or their Eco-Sensitive Zone (as applicable); and

(b) if so, the impact of this delinking and whether these projects will now be allowed to commence despite not having the requisite NBWL approval?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change has issued Guidelines dated 20th August, 2014 wherein process of granting approvals under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 has been delinked from the clearance of National Board for Wildlife (NBWL), except in cases where the forest land proposed for diversion falls within the boundary of the Protected Areas for which the prior approval of Hon'ble Supreme Court is required to be obtained by the project proponent. Delinking of the approvals under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 from approvals by the Standing Committee of NBWL does not amount to exemption from obtaining approvals from the Standing Committee of NBWL or approvals under any other applicable laws.

Deteriorating condition of environment in India

†2424. SHRI NARAYAN LAL PANCHARIYA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps being taken for the protection of the environment in the country; and

(b) whether it is a fact that the environment in India is considerably deteriorating 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) The Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change has notified several Acts and Rules, which are amended from time to time for prevention and control of environmental pollution in the country. These Acts and Rules are given below:

- Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974;
- Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981;
- Environment (Protection) Act, 1986;
- National Green Tribunal Act, 2010;
- Bio-Medical Waste (Management and Handling) Rules, 1998;
- Ozone Depleting Substances (Regulation and Control) Rules, 2000;
- Noise Pollution (Regulation and Control) Rules, 2000;
- Municipal Solid Wastes (Management and Handling) Rules, 2000

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.