

protection of forest area is primarily the responsibility of concerned State/UT Governments. However, there are Central Acts such as Indian Forest Act, 1927, Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and State Acts/Rules to deal with issues related to protection and management of forest areas. Use of forest land for non-forest purpose, including in Metropolitan Areas requires prior approval of Central Government under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. As of now, there is no specific proposal to amend the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

As per the Landuse Classification in Urban and Regional Development Plans Formulation and Implementation (URDPFI) Guidelines, 2014, 'Forests' are normally covered under "Recreational" use. For prescribing norms, the forests are classified under "Open Spaces", whereas Parks/Playgrounds are classified as "Organised Green". In order to conserve and protect the forests in and around the cities and towns, the State Governments need to adhere to the Norms prescribed in the URDPFI Guidelines, 2014.

#### **Environmental clearance for railways and dam projects**

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

(a) the number of proposals received in the years 2012, 2013 and 2014 for giving sanction to the projects of expansion of railways and construction of dams under the Forest Conservation Act, 1980 and the details thereof;

(b) the reasons for not sanctioning these projects and the details thereof; and

(c) by when the sanction will be given to the proposals received regarding projects of expansion of railways and construction of dams?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, in the years 2012, 2013 and 2014, has received total 137 proposals out of which 99 proposals have been accorded approval of forest land for non-forestry purposes under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 while 9 proposals have been withdrawn or closed and 29 number of proposals are at various stages of processing with State Governments, pertaining to railway and construction of dams.

Proposals seeking prior approval of the Central Government for diversion of

---

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

forest land are dealt by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change in accordance with the provisions given under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and Guidelines issued thereunder. Proposals complete in all respects are examined by the Forest Advisory Committee (FAC), constituted under Section-3 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. The FAC examines the proposals on their merits and accordingly recommends to consider or rejects the proposal.

Quite often the proposals received are not complete in all respects and the Central Government has to seek further details/ documents from the concerned State Governments resulting into pendency of the proposals. The Ministry intimates the shortcomings in the proposal immediately to the State Government and as soon as the proposal complete in all respect is received, the Ministry promptly takes decision on the proposal.

#### **Polluted river stretches in Telangana**

349. SHRIMATI GUNDU SUDHARANI : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that CPCB has identified some of the polluted river stretches in Telangana based on the Bio-Chemicals Oxygen Demand levels;

(b) if so, the details of river stretches that have been identified in Telangana; and

(c) the efforts that the Ministry is making to reduce pollution in the above stretches?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR): (a) to (c) The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) is monitoring the water quality of aquatic resources in the country under National Water Quality Monitoring Programme (NWMP). The data obtained are analysed statistically and compared with the water quality criteria. The river stretches not meeting with the criteria are identified as polluted stretches and categorised in five priority classes. As the level of Bio-chemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) varies widely in river, stretches are prioritized in five categories based on BOD concentration consistently exceeding BOD levels > 30 mg/l, BOD between 20 & 30 mg/l, BOD between 10 & 20 mg/l, BOD between 6 - 10 mg/l and BOD between 3 & 6 mg/l. Based on the monitoring conducted and 7 river stretches have been identified as polluted in the state of Telangana. The details of these 7 stretches in Telangana are given in the Statement (*See below*).