

(b) whether Government has conducted any detailed assessment about the impact of climate change on lives and livelihood of coastal fishing communities especially in Tamil Nadu, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR): (a) The Working Group-II report titled "Climate Change 2014: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability" of the 5th Assessment Report of Inter-Government Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) published in April, 2014, projects the redistribution of global marine-species and reduction in marine-biodiversity with potentially-detrimental consequences for fisheries, ecosystem services and livelihood. It also projects risk for fishing communities.

(b) A report titled "Climate Change and India: A 4X4 Assessment - A Sectoral and Regional Analysis for 2030s" published in November, 2010, has assessed the impact of climate change on coastal fisheries for four regions including coastal areas of Tamil Nadu. As per the report, increasing temperature and sea level rise may have negative effect on fisheries, which are likely to affect the lives and livelihood of coastal fishing communities.

Amendment in working of NGT

766. SHRI S. THANGAVELU: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is considering to make any amendment in the working of the National Green Tribunal (NGT) and if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that there is a public perception that instead of finding way to amend the working of the National Green Tribunal, Government should focus more on environmental related issues vigorously and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

Rising air pollution level in Delhi

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

(a) by when the proposed composite and comprehensive Air Index would be ready to gauge the rising air pollution levels in India in a more efficacious manner, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether specific plans are being made to deal with the extremely high air pollution in New Delhi in the long and short term (since it has been declared as the most polluted city in the world by the WHO); and

(c) the projected expenses and realistic aims in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR): (a) to (c) National Air Quality Index(AQI) has been launched to disseminate air quality information. The AQI has six categories of air quality, viz. Good, Satisfactory, Moderately polluted, Poor, Very Poor and Severe with distinct colour scheme.

Each of these categories is associated with likely health impacts. AQI considers eight pollutants (PM₁₀, PM 2.5, NO₂, SO₂, CO, O₃, NH₃ and Pb) for which short-term (upto 24-hourly averaging period) National Ambient Air Quality Standards are prescribed. Presently, air quality data for 10 cities are connected to AQI system which is available on the website of Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and Central Pollution Control Board.

The Government has taken various measures to contain air pollution in New Delhi, which *interalia* include, supply of cleaner fuels as per Auto Fuel Policy, use of gaseous fuel for public transport, Pollution Under Control (PUC) certificate system for in-use vehicles, stringent source specific emission standards and their compliance, use of beneficiated coal in thermal power plants, strengthening public transport, expansion of metro train system, implementation of revised emission norms for gensets etc. At present no substantial expenditure is envisaged.

Original research on GM banana

768. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has seen the original research on GM banana done by the scientists of Bhabha Atomic Research Centre;

(b) if so, the reasons for contributing millions of dollar for developing genetically engineered banana enriched in iron by an Australian scientist; and

(c) the corrective steps taken by Government in the matter?