

As per the Section 3 of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002, any foreign individual or entity has to obtain prior approval of the National Biodiversity Authority for commercial utilization of the India's biological resources and /or associated knowledge. Further, any Indian Individual or entity has to obtain prior approval of the concerned State Biodiversity Boards for accessing the biological resources for commercial utilization.

Legal protection has been provided to endangered wild animals and plants against hunting and commercial exploitation under the provisions of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 which has been amended and made more stringent by enhancing the punishment in cases of offences.

Review of existing legal framework for e-waste

2751. DR. CHANDAN MITRA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has created any legislative and enforcement mechanism to prevent India from becoming a dumping ground of e-waste for developed nations, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the steps taken by Government to review the existing legal framework and put in place a necessary policy framework and legal architecture together with effective implementation machinery in order to meet the challenges of e-waste management in a time bound manner?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR): (a) Import and export of e-waste is regulated under the Hazardous Waste (Management, Handling & Transboundary Movement) Rules, 2008. As per the Rules, no import of the hazardous wastes including e-waste from any country to India for disposal is permitted. A person intending to import e-waste and second hand electrical and electronic equipment (EEE) for re-use purpose shall seek permission of this Ministry prior to import. No permission for import of e-waste in the country has been granted by this Ministry under the Rules in the last four years. The import applications for second hand EEE are evaluated on case to case basis and permission is granted only with approval competent authority.

(b) e-Waste (Management and Handling) Rules, 2011 have been notified for effective management of e-waste. For better management of electronic waste, Ministry has published draft e-Waste (Management) Rules, 2015 inviting public comments and suggestions. The provisions of this draft Rules include expanding producers'

responsibility, setting up of Producers' Responsibility Organizations, and e-waste Exchange, assigning specific responsibility to bulk consumers of electronic products for safe disposal, providing for economic incentives for collection of electronic waste, providing for logo-based identification of e-waste Rules compliant companies and providing for restriction on Government procurement of electronic products only from the companies who are compliant with e-waste Rules. Other measures include dedicated responsibility of electronic and electrical product manufacturers for collection and channelizing of electronic waste.

Diversion of forest land in urban areas

2752. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH:

SHRI DILIP KUMAR TIRKEY:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether diversion of forest land for non-forest use in urban areas require prior approval of Government;
- (b) how many such proposals have been received from the entire country, State-wise in the last three years;
- (c) how many, out of those proposals, have been approved, how many rejected and how many are pending with Central Government;
- (d) what are the reasons for rejection and pendency of those proposals; and
- (e) whether there is any proposal for relaxation of provisions of forest (conservation) Act for urban areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR): (a) to (e) Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 *inter-alia* provides that notwithstanding anything contained in any other law for the time being in force in a State, no State Government or other authority shall make, except with the prior approval of the Central Government, any order directing that any forest land or any portion thereof may be used for any non-forest purpose. Therefore, use of forest land for various development projects, including development projects in urban areas, requires prior approval of the Central Government under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. During last three years and current year, the Central Government has accorded approvals over 1,24,133 ha. of forest land in 4,232 cases for such development activities including developmental activities in urban areas.