

- (c) if so, the details thereof along with the reaction of Government thereto; and
- (d) whether Government has sought suggestions from various quarters in this regard, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR): (a) to (d) The Environment Impact Assessment Notification issued on 14.09.2006 has been amended from time to time to incorporate the changes required as per the context. The amendments issued to streamline the process of Environment Clearance *inter-alia* include more powers to State Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority, exempting the construction of industrial shed, school, college, universities, hostels for education institution from requirement of EC, subject to ensuring sustainable environment management exemption to all highway projects in border States from scoping requirement and exempting all linear projects in border States from the requirement of public hearing subject to suitable environmental conditions prescribed by the Ministry, standardising the Terms of Reference for preparation of EIA Report and issuance of TOR in 30 days, increasing the validity of Environment Clearance from 5 to 7 years etc.

The amendment to notification is done following the due process of Public Consultation or otherwise as per the provisions of Environment (Protection) Rules, 1986.

Illegal trade of wildlife related products

1135. DR. T. N. SEEMA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of seizures relating to illegal trade of wildlife and wildlife related products that took place in the years from 2010 to 2015;
- (b) the details of number of individuals arrested or prosecuted under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 in the year from 2010 to 2015; and
- (c) whether Government has initiated any new plans or policies to curb the illegal trade in wildlife species?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR): (a) and (b) Protection of wildlife is the primarily the responsibility of the State/Union Territory Government concerned. The data regarding illegal trade of wildlife and its products, arrest and prosecution under the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 are not collated at the level of this Ministry.

(c) The Government has initiated following plans and policies to curb the illegal trade in wildlife species in the country:

- (i) For creating awareness among people about zero tolerance to wildlife crime and to send a strong message against poaching, the wildlife articles confiscated in wildlife offence cases were burned in public view by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change in Delhi Zoo premises on 2nd November 2014.
- (ii) Wildlife Crime Control Bureau has been established in 2006 to ensure coordination among various offices and State Government in connection with the enforcement of law for control of poaching and illegal trade in wildlife and its products.
- (iii) A proposal for augmentation of the staff strength and enforcement machinery of Wildlife Crime Control Bureau has been sent to Department of Expenditure.
- (iv) The Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 is taken up for comprehensive review for *inter-alia* strengthening the measures for combating wildlife crimes including enhancement of punishments.
- (v) Legal protection has been provided to wild animals against hunting and commercial exploitation under the provisions of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.
- (vi) In addition to provision of stringent punishment for offenders, the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 also provides for forfeiture of any equipment, vehicle or weapon that is used for committing wildlife offence(s).
- (vii) Financial and technical assistance is provided to the State/Union Territory Governments under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes for providing better protection to wildlife including endangered species and improvement of its habitat.

Monitoring of air quality in Delhi

1136. SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has requested the US authorities to monitor air quality in Delhi, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(b) whether it is proposed to bring more polluted cities in India under the above fold, if so, the details thereof?