

(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?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR): (a) and (b) No, Sir. No request has been made by the Government to US authorities to monitor air quality in Delhi. There are 11 continuous ambient air quality monitoring stations operated by Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB-5) and Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC-6) apart from 10 manual stations (CPCB-7 and NEERI-3). No need is felt for monitoring of air quality by outside agency (ies).

The Air Quality Index (AQI) developed and launched in India is based on 8 parameters whereas US air quality index is based on 6 parameters. The US Embassy in Delhi is reporting AQI based on only one parameter ($PM_{2.5}$).

The National Air Monitoring Programme network was initiated in 1984 in two cities, which has been expanded to cover 249 cities, towns and industrial areas, as on 30.06.2015, and is an ongoing process.

Release of CAMPA funds

1137. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government has received any requests from any State Governments for release of funds under Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA) to increase forest cover in their respective States, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(b) the quantum of funds earmarked for each State and the amount of funds released so far for the present financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR): (a) The proposals are received annually from various States/UTs in terms of the State CAMPA Guidelines approved by the hon'ble Supreme Court of India in their Order dated 10th July 2009 in IA No.2143 in Writ Petition (Civil) No.202/1995 titled T N Godavarman Thirumalpad *Vs.* UOI and Ors.;

(b) In terms of the Supreme Court judgment dated 12th March 2014 in the above Writ Petition, the *Ad-hoc* CAMPA is permitted to release annual amount equal to 10% of the principal amount lying to the credit of each State/Union Territory, out of the interest receivable by it with effect from the financial year 2014-15 onwards. The details of funds released to the State/UT CAMPAs in the current financial year is given in the Statement.