

supplements the efforts of State/UT Governments by providing Grants-in-aid under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Intensification of Forest Management. The funds under the scheme are utilized for patrolling of the forests, establishment of field camps, building fire watch towers, creation and maintenance of fire lines, forest fire control, survey and demarcation of forest areas and strengthening of forest infrastructure etc. The States/UTs also implement forest protection measures with their own funds. The support of local communities is also solicited under Joint Forest Management activities, in protection of forest area.

**Pollution caused by hydroelectric projects**

846. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government has made it mandatory for hydroelectric projects across India to maintain 15 per cent downstream flow in rivers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether hydroelectric projects are causing pollution in water bodies in the downstream;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Central Government has issued direction to control pollution caused by hydroelectric projects in the downstream;

(f) if so, the response of the State Governments thereon, State-wise; and

(g) the action taken by the Central Government to control pollution in the river caused by hydroelectric projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR): (a) No, Sir. This Ministry has not made it mandatory for hydroelectric project across India to maintain 15 per cent downstream flow in rivers.

(b) Does not arise in view of the (a) above. However, this Ministry has prescribed a Standard Terms of Reference (TOR) for carrying-out Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) study and preparation of Environmental Management Plan (EMP) as a tool for appraisal of hydroelectric power projects for granting Environment Clearance (EC). One of the conditions prescribed in TOR, stipulate the necessity of release of adequate environmental flow during lean, non-lean and non-monsoon and monsoon seasons. These releases are generally 20%, 25% and 30% respectively of the average flows corresponding to 90% dependable year.

(c) to (g) Hydroelectric power projects may cause adverse environmental impact and to mitigate such impact on riverine biodiversity, terrestrial biodiversity and water quality of river; necessary measures are prescribed as per EIA study. Accordingly, an appropriate EMP is prepared which is evaluated by a designated Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC) for River Valley and Hydroelectric Projects. The EAC recommends environmental safeguard measures to mitigate the adverse impacts. These measures are stipulated in the Environmental Clearance for compliance by the project proponents. Compliance of environmental safeguard conditions is monitored regularly through the Regional Offices of Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and State Pollution Control Boards. Government issues directions and take penal actions by exercising power under Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 in case of violation of the prescribed conditions by the project proponents.

#### **Safe disposal of e-waste**

847. SHRIMATI SASIKALA PUSHPA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that e-waste is increasing menacingly in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of Government thereto;

(c) whether Government has fixed any norms for safety of workers handling e-waste;

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken by Government for safe disposal of e-waste in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR): (a) A report from Central Pollution Control Board indicated the quantum of e-waste generation in the country in 2005 to the tune of 1.46 lakh Metric Ton (MT) which was projected to increase to 8 lakh MT by the year 2012.

(b) In order to address the issue of increasing e-waste in the country, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) has notified E-Waste (Management and Handling) Rules, 2011. These Rules have come into force from 1st May, 2012 and are applicable to the e-waste, generated from IT and telecommunication equipment and consumer electrical and electronic items. These rules apply to producer, consumer, collection centre, dismantler and recycler of e-waste.