

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has notified Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ) around Okhla Bird Sanctuary in the State of Uttar Pradesh and National Capital Territory of Delhi *vide* notification dated 19.8.2015 to conserve and protect the area up to one hundred meter from the eastern, western and southern boundary and up to 1.27 kilometers from the northern boundary of the Okhla Bird Sanctuary from ecological and environmental point of view and to prohibit any commercial mining activities within one kilometer area from the eastern, western and southern boundary and within 1.27 kilometers area from the northern boundary of the Okhla Bird Sanctuary.

(c) and (d) The final notification declaring Eco-sensitive Zone around Okhla Bird Sanctuary has been challenged in the National Green Tribunal (NGT) in the matter of Anand Arya Vs. Union of India and Ors and Paramveer Singh Vs. Union of India and Ors. The NGT *vide* its order dated 9.11.2015 has directed that the NOIDA Authority be impleaded as respondent in the matter. NGT has further directed that “the order directing that action taken in the meanwhile would be subject to final orders of the Tribunal in these cases would continue”.

(e) As per the said notification the Monitoring Committee constituted for the Eco-sensitive Zone, monitors the implementation of the provisions of the notification. However, no case of unauthorized construction has been brought to the notice of this Ministry since the issuance of the final notification declaring Eco-sensitive Zone around Okhla Bird Sanctuary on 19th August 2015.

Forest land diverted for non-forestry purposes

853. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of forest land which have been diverted for non-forestry purpose since coming into force of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980; and

(b) the details of funds collected under the Compensatory Afforestation Forest Management Planning Authority land for forest land diverted for non-forestry purposes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR): (a) Since 25.10.1980, the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change has granted approval over 12,06,320 ha. of forest land in 25,879 cases under Section-2 of the Forest

(Conservation) Act, 1980 for various developmental activities. Use of forest areas for such activities are approved by the Central Government under Section 2 of the Forest (conservation) Act, 1980 with adequate environmental safeguards and afforestation measures in lieu of forest land proposed to be utilized for developmental activities.

(b) As per the unaudited figures as on 31.03.2015, after releases to the States, a total amount of ₹ 26,297.29 crores was available in the principal accounts in the name of various States/UT CAMPAs. The accrued interest as on this date was ₹ 9,224.78 crores. In addition, an amount of ₹ 2,628.12 crores was held in Banks for impending releases to the States.

Incidents of illegal sand mining

854. SHRI PARVEZ HASHMI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken note of increasing incidents of illegal sand mining in the country particularly in Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Jharkhand;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of illegal sand mining cases booked in the country including those States during the last three years, year-wise;

(d) whether Government has taken any deterrent action against illegal miners to curb illegal sand mining in the country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR): (a) to (c) Sand is a minor mineral. State Governments regulate grant of mining leases and other concessions in respect of all minor minerals including Sand. The enforcement of sand mining leases, controlling and abating illegal sand mining is largely vested with the State Governments. The Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM) reports on the incidents of illegal mining. However, no data is maintained separately for sand mining. The details showing year-wise cases of illegal mining for major and minor minerals together in the State of Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Jharkhand are given in Statement (*See below*).

(d) and (e) The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has notified the Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification, 2006, as amended