

Misuse of funds for cleaning up of Yamuna river

113. SHRI. PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any enquiry has been instituted to investigate into the alleged misuse of funds for cleaning up of Yamuna river;

(b) if so, the details of the outcome thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the effective measures being taken/proposed by Government to ensure proper utilization of funds provided for the cleaning up of Yamuna river?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. An inquiry has been instituted by Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) to investigate into misuse of funds for cleaning of River Yamuna in case of procurement of Diesel Generating Sets for community toilet complexes constructed in Delhi under Yamuna Action Plan. During the course of investigation it has transpired that certain irregularities were committed in the purchase of Diesel Generating Sets by the Electrical Division of MCD. On the basis of investigations, 32 officials/officers have been charge-sheeted.

(c) The implementation of NRCP which includes cleaning of Yamuna river is monitored by both the Government of India and the State Governments at various levels regularly. Funds are released to the implementing agencies/State Governments only after the receipt of proper Utilization Certificates authenticated by competent authorities.

Forestry projects of World Bank

114. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank has indicated its preference to take up forestry projects in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof including names of the States, cost of the projects and project objectives; and

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(c) the reaction of Government in regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The details are as under:-

(i) Andhra Pradesh:- The project objectives are to reduce rural poverty through improved forest management with community participation. The cost is Rs. 653 crores. Period is 5 years and is already under implementation since 2002-03.

(ii) Jharkhand:- The proposed objectives are to help forest dwellers in exploring community driven approaches to natural resource management and to pilot strategic partnership between communities, the forest department and other development agents. The State Government has sent a proposal of US\$ 20,03,500 for Japan Social Development Fund and borrowers contribution for the preparation of project and capacity building etc. which has been concurred by the World Bank and the Ministry of Finance.

(iii) Madhya Pradesh:- The objective is reduction of poverty in forest fringe areas through sustainable forest management. The State Government has sent proposal for grant under Japan Social Development Fund (JSDF) to the tune of US \$ 2,12,100 for village level capacity development for implementation of Community Forest Management in Madhya Pradesh to the Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, Government of India.

(iv) Assam:- The World Bank has just initiated discussions with the Forest Department of Assam on this issue.

(c) The Andhra Pradesh project is already under implementation. This Ministry supports other three proposals.

Forest cover

†115. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of density of the forest cover across the country, State-wise;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.