

[9 July, 2004]

RAJYA SABHA

State/UT	Geographic Area	Dense*	Forest Cover		Per cent
			Open**	Total	
Karnataka	191,791	26,156	10,835	36,991	19.29
Kerala	38,863	11,772	3,788	15,560	40.04
Madhya Pradesh	308,245	44,384	32,881	77,265	25.07
Maharashtra	307,713	30,894	16,588	47,482	15.43
Manipur	22,327	5,710	11,216	16,926	75.81
Meghalaya	22,429	5,681	9,903	15,584	69.48
Mizoram	21,081	8,936	8,558	17,494	82.98
Nagaland	16,579	5,393	7,952	13,345	80.49
Orissa	155,707	27,972	20,866	48,838	31.36
Punjab	50,362	1,549	883	2,432	4.83
Rajasthan	342,239	6,322	10,045	16,367	4.78
Sikkim	7,096	2,391	802	3,193	45.00
Tamil Nadu	130,058	12,499	8,983	21,482	16.52
Tripura	10,486	3,463	3,602	7,065	67.38
Uttar Pradesh	240,928	8,965	4,781	13,746	5.71
Uttaranchal	53,483	19,023	4,915	23,938	44.76
West Bengal	88,752	6,346	4,347	10,693	12.05
A & N Islands	8,249	6,593	337	6,930	84.01
Chandigarh	114	5	4	9	7.51
Dadra & N.	491	151	68	219	44.60
Daman & Diu	112	2	4	6	5.53
Lakshadweep	32	27	0	27	85.91
Pondicherry	480	35	1	36	7.45
Grand Total	3,287,263	416,809	258,729	675,538	20.55

* More than 40 per cent density.

** Between 10 to 40 per cent density.

Imports of toxic wastes

116. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR. Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that India is becoming the world's favourite dumping ground of hazardous substances and wastes;

(b) whether it is a fact that India continues to allow illegal import of nearly 1,00,000 metric tonnes of toxic wastes annually, mostly from so called developed countries;

(c) if so, the steps Government propose to take to prevent environmental pollution from toxic wastes; and

(d) if not, the steps Government propose to take to prevent import of toxic wastes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) Import of hazardous wastes into the country for dumping is prohibited; imports for the purpose of recycling/reuse is closely regulated under the provisions of the Hazardous Wastes (Management & Handling) Rules, 1989 along with the Foreign Trade (Development and Regulation) Act, 1992 and the Customs Act, 1962.

(b) No illegal import of toxic wastes is allowed under the Rules.

(c) and (d) A number of safeguards have been put in place to prevent indiscriminate import of toxic wastes and environmental pollution. These include:-

- Import of 29 categories of highly hazardous wastes banned.
- Import of 22 identified non-ferrous metal wastes permitted only by recyclers/reprocessors registered with the Central Pollution Control Board as actual users having environmentally sound management facilities.
- Mandatory authorization of units handling and generating hazardous wastes by State Pollution Control Boards/Pollution Control Committees.

Revamping of Yamuna and Rivalsar lake

†117. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 380 given in the Rajya Sabha on 22nd November, 2002 and state:

(a) whether any proposal for revamping of River Yamuna as well as the Rivalsar lake has been received from Himachal Pradesh Government under National River Conservation Scheme; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.