

for conservation of the lake, which is being spent by the State Government on various activities relating to dredging, deweeding, catchment area treatment, solid waste management, sewerage system and sewage pumping stations, improvement of lake hydrology and hydraulics, lake eco-regeneration, rehabilitation of families and acquisition of land and structures inside the lake, etc. A project proposal amounting to Rs. 269.45 crore has also been prepared for conservation of the Dal-Nagin Lake.

**Simplification of procedure for granting
environment clearance**

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

(a) Whether it is a fact that Government have simplified the procedure for granting environment clearance by adopting 'good practices' in regulatory procedures such as environmental clearance, forestry clearance, coastal zone regulation, Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC) and animal experimentation; and

(b) if so, the details of the new procedure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) The Ministry has recently prepared a paper on 'Good Practices in Environmental Regulation' with a view to promoting time-bound and transparent decision-making in regulatory procedures relating to environmental and forestry clearances. Some of the important measures initiated in this regard include laying down fixed time-table for meetings of the Regulatory/Expert Committees; affording personal hearing to the applicants; setting time-limits for processing and disposal of cases, and for communicating decisions; and putting the relevant information in public domain by posting it on the website of the Ministry.

Population of Gir lions

543. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for depleting population of Gir lions; and