

(c) Promotion of bamboo in the country has been a priority item on the agenda of the Planning Commission for the last couple of years. A Committee in the Planning Commission has studied and assessed the possibilities of developing bamboo sector which has submitted its report to the Commission. The report includes components like bamboo cultivation, value addition at community level and developing market linkages for the products. Apart from this, a 'National Mission on Bamboo Applications' has been operational in Department of Science and Technology.

(d) and (e) Ministry of Environment and Forests has not sent any task specific team to visit bamboo-dependent communities during last year and no plans are under consideration of the Ministry for any interaction with the NGOs.

Erosion of river banks

539. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the River Conservation Directorate made any study on the damage to the rivers by rapid erosion of their river banks in some States;

(b) whether it is a fact that there has been rapid erosion of river banks of the River Godavari in some areas;

(c) whether any aerial survey has been done by Government to establish the extent of such damage;

(d) whether other systems of survey has been used by the River Conservation Directorate to study this phenomena recently; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (e) No, Sir. The River Conservation Directorate under the Ministry of Environment and Forests has not made any study on the damage to the rivers by rapid erosion of their river banks nor any aerial study or other system of survey has been used by the Directorate to study this phenomena because the National River Conservation Directorate is dealing only with the schemes of abatement of pollution to the rivers

under the National River Conservation Plan (NRCP). The objective of the National River Conservation Plan is to improve the water quality of the rivers through the implementation of the following pollution abatement works:

- * Interception and diversion works to capture the raw sewage flowing into the river through open drains and divert them for treatment.
- * Sewage treatment plants for treating the diverted sewage.
- * Low cost sanitation works to prevent open defecation on river banks.
- * Electric crematoria and improved wood crematoria to conserve the use of wood and help in ensuring proper cremation of bodies brought to the burning ghats.
- * River front development works such as improvement of bathing ghats etc.
- * Other minor miscellaneous work like afforestation, public participation, public awareness etc.

Under NRCP, pollution abatement works are under implementation in 157 towns along with the polluted stretches of 31 rivers spread over 18 States at a total approved cost of Rs. 4688 crore including Central and State share.

Report on climate change

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

(a) whether India's initial report to the UN on climate change has been made public; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. India's Initial National Communication to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change has been submitted