

[16 July, 2004]

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to the Convention Secretariat towards fulfilment of India's obligation under the Convention. The Initial National Communication contains information on India's emissions of greenhouse gases of anthropogenic origin at 1994 level which were 1228 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent; vulnerability assessment of key sectors such as agriculture, forestry, water resources, health, infrastructure, industry, national ecosystems and coastal zones to projected climate change; programmes related to sustainable development; research and systematic observations; and constraints and gaps, and related financial, technical and capacity need in the area of climate change.

Shrinking of Dal lake

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

(a) whether Government are aware that the world famous Dal lake, one of the world's largest natural water bodies, is dying;

(b) whether it is a fact that the lake is abused by 100 hamlets, many floating gardens and several hotels and lodges and therefore, it takes in all the city's sewage,

(c) whether Government are aware that the quality of water in the lake has deteriorated and the lake's vast reserves of aquatic life are rapidly shrinking; and

(d) if so, the action Government propose to take to save the beautiful lake?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Government is aware about the shrinking in area of Dal-Nagin Lake and the deterioration in its water quality due to various reasons like siltation, increased urbanization, polluted inflow from 58 habitated hamlets, 13 hotels/lodges and floating gardens within the lake as well as discharge of untreated sewage from some peripheral areas of the lake (which is only a part of the total sewage generated in Srinagar).

(d) Additional Central Assistance of Rs. 102.45 crore has been provided till date by the Planning Commission to the J & K Government

for conservation of the lake, which is being spent by the State Government on various activities relating to dredging, dewatering, 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