

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

(b) the remedial measures proposed to check it and ensure more breeding of lions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) There is no depletion in the population of Gir lions. On the contrary it has increased from 284 in 1990 to 327 in 2001.

(b) Central Government has provided technical and financial assistance to State Government for the management of Gir National Park and Gir-Sanctuary and their population of lions.

Kastoori deer in Uttaranchal

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

(a) the total estimated number of rare Kastoori deer found in the border districts of Uttaranchal State;

(b) what specific steps are being taken to protect and increase the number of such deers;

(c) whether it is a fact that number of Kastoori deers are constantly decreasing on account of the smuggling and disease in these areas; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) As per the report received from the State 193 Musk deer have been estimated in the border districts of Uttaranchal in the census of 2003.

(b) Regular patrolling and close interaction with local community through Eco-development Committees (EDC) for protection measures has been adopted. Intelligence network has also been established in far-flung areas and a constant vigil is being maintained.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.