

recycling and utilization of plastic waste in road construction, energy and oil generation and adoption of extended producer responsibility for the sustainability of the waste management system.

### **Conservation of leopards**

53. SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Ministry has taken any steps to ensure the conservation of leopards;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether steps are being taken to conserve the quality of its habitat and prey-base in Tamil Nadu, and the rest of States;
- (d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) what steps are being taken in case of stray leopards entering human habitations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR): (a) to (d) The habitats of wildlife including that of leopard in Tamil Nadu and other States are conserved primarily through Protected Area network and sustainable forest management in the forests of the country.

There are 730 Protected Areas (National Parks, Sanctuaries, Conservation Reserves, Community Reserves) in the country which altogether form 1/4th of the total forest area of the country.

Leopard is not among the species identified for 'species specific conservation programme' because there are no evidences of threat of extinction of this species in the country.

- (e) Forest Department of States takes immediate steps for dealing with situations for conflicts arising out of straying of leopards in human habitations. Specific guidelines for handling human-leopard conflicts have been issued by the Ministry in 2011. In addition, State/Union Territory Governments have been advised to institute a 'Human Wildlife Conflict Management Strategy' on priority for identified conflict zones in June 2015.