

for Industrial Pollution Management, setting up of Treatment and Disposal Facilities for hazardous and biomedical waste, setting up of Sewage Treatment Plants etc.

(xix) Re-categorisation of industries based on the pollution potential.

(b) The revised waste management Rules prescribe definite roles for stakeholders more explicitly including the roles for waste generators, local bodies, State Government, State Pollution Control Boards, Central Ministries and Central Pollution Control Board. To supplement financial resources for implementation of these waste management Rules, the local bodies have been empowered to levy user charges for the services rendered and spot fine for the default. All manufacturers and brand owners have been made responsible for collection and channelization of waste through Extended Producers Responsibility and provisioning for necessary financial assistance to local bodies. Further, the shopkeepers and street vendors willing to provide plastic carry bags for dispensing any commodity are required to register with local body on payment of plastic waste management fee. The industrial projects have to meet the expenditure for the installation of Sewage Treatment Plants and Effluent Treatment Plants.

These rules were sent to the concerned Central Ministries and all the State Governments for effective implementation.

#### **Pollution of Manjeera and Nakka Vagu**

1527. DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that river Manjeera and a rivulet, Nakka Vagu that merges with Manjeera are being polluted with the release of effluents from nearby factories in the Sangareddy area of Medak district in Telangana;

(b) whether the polluted river waters have created a drinking water problem; and

(c) if so, the steps proposed to address the issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE): (a) and (b) Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has reported that there is no industrial effluent discharge into Nakka Vagu rivulet and Manjeera river at present. Manjeera River and Nakka Vagu

rivulet receive domestic discharge from adjoining towns. The CPCB, based on the drinking water quality criteria with respect to Bio-chemical Oxygen Demand, has identified polluted river stretches at Manjeera River (from Gowdicharla to Nakka Vagu) and Nakka Vagu rivulet (from Gandilachapet to Sevalal Thanda).

(c) Telangana State Pollution Control Board (TSPCB) has carried out a comprehensive study on polluted river stretch of Nakka Vagu with CPCB funding in the year 2012. Since the main source of pollution is domestic sewage, notices have been issued by TSPCB to authorities concerned to construct Sewage Treatment Plants.

#### **Areas covered by dense forests**

1528. SHRI K.K. RAGESH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) what is the status of areas covered by dense forests;
- (b) the details thereof during the last ten years;
- (c) whether any forest land has been got converted into non-forest land during that period; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE): (a) and (b) Forest cover of the country is assessed biennially and published as India State of Forest / Report (ISFR) by Forest Survey of India, Dehradun, an organization under Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. As per India State of Forest Report-2015, the forest cover of the country is 7, 01,673 square kilometers. The forest cover is divided into three classes namely Very Dense Forest (VDF), Moderately Dense Forest (MDF) and Open Forest (OF). As per this classification, the total dense forest cover is 4,01,278 square kilometers including VDF and MDF. The area figures of Dense Forest Cover for last ten years are given in Statement-I (*See below*).

(c) and (d) During last ten years, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has granted approval for diversion of 24,52,88 hectare of forest land in 11,580 cases under Section - 2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for various developmental activities. The State-wise details are given in Statement-II.