

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) In view of reply part (a) above, reply to part (b) does not arise.

Integration of NRCP in Ministry of WRRDGR

1536. PROF. M.V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Cabinet Secretariat had sought the comments of the Ministry to integrate the National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) in the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation (WRRDGR);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Ministry has submitted the comments to the Cabinet Secretariat and whether this matter has been resolved; 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) Yes, Sir Expenditure Finance Committee, while considering the National Hydrology Project of Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation (MoWR, RD&GR), recommended that to ensure an integrated approach at national level, National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) and the Directorate should be transferred from Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change to MoWR, RD&GR. Based on a reference in this regard from Finance Secretary, the Cabinet Secretariat sought comments of this Ministry.

(c) and (d) The comments of this Ministry have been submitted to the Cabinet Secretariat in February, 2016.

Schemes for environmental conservation

1537. SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of schemes implemented by Government for environmental conservation in the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that the environmental conservation is in a critical stage in various States of the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the remedial steps taken by Government in this regard; and

(d) the efforts being made by Government for achieving sustainable development in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE): (a) The Ministry is implementing National River Conservation Programme, sub-schemes of Conservation of Natural Resources and Eco-Systems, National Afforestation Programme and Green India Mission, National Coastal Management Programme, National Mission on Himalayan Studies under Climate Change Programme under the Central Sector and Centrally Sponsored Schemes of Government of India.

(b) to (d) These schemes act as remedial measures for conservation of environment and sustainable development of various ecosystems. The umbrella Scheme on Conservation of Natural Resources and Eco-systems through its different sub-schemes formulated for protection of corals, mangroves, biosphere reserves, wetlands and lakes conserve the natural resources and these eco-systems of the country. The sub-scheme of National Plan for Conservation of Aquatic Ecosystems aims at conservation of all aquatic eco-systems including lakes and wetlands of the country. National Afforestation Programme and Green India Mission contribute towards regeneration of degraded forests and their adjoining areas in the country. National River Conservation Programme facilitates in improving water quality of polluted stretches of rivers by preventing pollution loads reaching the rivers through various pollution abatement works. National Coastal Management Programme ensures livelihood security to fishing and other local communities to conserve and protect coastal stretches and promotes coastal development based on scientific principles. National Mission on Himalayan Studies aims at focusing on conservation of Himalayan Ecosystem and sustainable development of the Indian Himalayan Region. The Ministry also monitors implementation of United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and has been carrying out enabling activities and other obligations of the Convention. The programme aims at networking and forging strategic partnerships among relevant Scientific Institutions and stakeholders for enhancing knowledge data base and scientific inputs in reporting and revising desertification and land degradation. Collection, collation and storage of subject specific database on environmental issues for future retrieval and dissemination to all concerned for sustainable quality of life for future generations, is achieved through an Environmental Information System (ENVIS) Programme of the Ministry.

The funding under the Central Sector Schemes is 100 per cent from the Government of India. Under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes, as per the revised funding pattern from 2015- 16 onwards, the Government of India's share is 50 per cent for rest of India and 80 per cent for the North Eastern States and 3 Himalayan States *i.e.* Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand in environment sector. The share of the Government of India is 60 per cent for rest of India in the schemes related to forestry and wildlife and 90 per cent in respect of North Eastern States and 3 Himalayan States.

Operational mines closed in Rajasthan

†1538. SHRI RAM NARAIN DUDI:

SHRI NARAYAN LAL PANCHARIYA:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of operational mines in Rajasthan closed due to non-availability of environmental clearance;

(b) whether the National Green Tribunal has sought suggestions from the State Governments before closing down the mines and if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) the action taken by Government to address the issue of job crisis likely to be faced by the workers due to such closure; and

(d) whether Government is taking any steps to facilitate the process of environmental clearance so that the mining activities could be restarted in the State and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE): (a) The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) does not maintain details of operational mines in various States. However, the Government of Rajasthan has reported on 27th July, 2016 that nearly 25,000 leases/quarry licences are in operation and out of which nearly 19,000 were closed.

(b) State Government of Rajasthan was a party in the matter of Himmat Singh Shekhawat versus State of Rajasthan & Others [MA. No. 577 of 2016 in M.A. No. 24 of 2016 in Original Application No. 123 of 2014].

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.