Forest diversion for capital city in Andhra Pradesh

731. SHRI C. M. RAMESH : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a)   what are the reasons for not clearing the proposal of the Andhra Pradesh Government inspite of Central Governments decision to allow forest diversion for creation of State's new capital city; and

(b)   the details sought by the Ministry from the State Government and the response of State Government on each such details?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE) : (a) and (b) The State Government of Andhra Pradesh had submitted a proposal to obtain prior approval of the Central Government, in terms of the Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of 13,267.12 hectares of forest land, in favour of Andhra Pradesh Capital Region Development Authority (APCRDA), for undertaking Capital City Infrastructure Works.

The proposal was placed before the Forest Advisory Committee (FAC) and the FAC recommended that the State Government submit a detailed land use plan of the area under consideration, Compensatory Afforestation Scheme, compliance of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 etc.

The State Government of Andhra Pradesh has not yet provided the land use plan detailing the purpose for which forest land is sought to be diverted.

National policy on polythene bags

732.   SHRI ANUBHAV MOHANTY : Will thc Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a)   what is the national policy with regard to the use of polythene bags;

(b)   how the Minister proposes to deal with the menace of plastic/polythene waste;

(c)   how many States have strictly banned the use of polythene bags;

(d)   whether there is any possibility of banning the use of polythene bags completely throughout the country, in order to protect its environment; and

(e)   if so, by when it would be implemented, the details thereof, State/UT-wise?