

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE) : (a) Plastic Waste (Management) Rules, 2016 prohibit the manufacture, trade and use of plastic carry bags of less than fifty microns in thickness and storing, carrying, dispensing or packaging edible products in plastic carry bags made of recycled plastics. The Rules further provide that the plastic carry bags should be in natural shade or manufactured of the pigments and colourants in conformity with norms of Bureau of Indian Standards. The shopkeepers and street vendors are required to pay plastic waste management fee to local bodies for providing plastic carry bags to customers for dispensing any commodity.

(b) Environmentally sound management of plastic waste requires prevention of littering, improvement in collection and channelization of the plastic waste for reuse and recycling. The comprehensively revised Plastic Waste (Management) Rules, 2016 provide for ways and means to minimize plastic waste generation, adoption of extended producer responsibility for collection of waste and sustainable waste management system, recycling and utilization of plastic waste in road construction, energy and oil generation etc. As per these Rules, the manufacture and use of non-recyclable multilayered plastic are to be phased out in two years time.

(c) The use of plastic carry bags has been banned in 14 States/Union Territories namely; Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Karnataka, Nagaland, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, Chandigarh, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep. The use of plastic carry bags has been banned in few pilgrimage centres, and places of tourist and places of historical importance in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Goa, Gujarat, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal and Uttarakhand.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise in view of the answer at (d) above.

Polluted river stretches in Telangana

733. SHRIDEVENDER GOUDT : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Godavari, Krishna, Manjeera, Musi, Nakkavagu, Sabari and Maner river stretches in Telangana have been identified as polluted stretches;

(b) if so, when the above stretches have been identified and what action the Ministry has taken so far to reduce/remove pollution from the above stretches;

(c) the amount sanctioned, released and spent under the National River Conservation Plan to remove pollution from the above stretches; and

(d) whether any international assistance has been received to remove pollution from the above stretches?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE) : (a) to (c) The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) in association with the State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs) is monitoring water quality of rivers on a regular basis. As per a report published by CPCB in February, 2015 based on Bio-chemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) level in rivers, a key indicator of organic pollution, the stretches of river Godavari (Basar to Khammam), river Krishna (Thangadigi to Wadapally), river Manjeera (Gowdicharla to Nakkavagu), river Musi (Hyderabad to Nalgonda), river Nakkavagu (Gandilachapet to Sevalal Thanda), river Sabari (Khammam to Kunnapuram) and river Maner (Warangal to Somnapalli) have been identified as polluted in Telangana.

It is the responsibility of the State Governments/concerned local bodies to set up proper facilities for collection, transportation and treatment of sewage being generated and ensure that untreated sewage does not fall into the rivers, thereby polluting them. The Ministry is supplementing the efforts of the State Governments in pollution abatement of various rivers through the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of National River Conservation Plan (NRCP), which is being implemented on cost sharing basis between the Central and the State Governments. For pollution abatement of river Musi at Hyderabad, schemes pertaining to interception and diversion of sewage, sewage pumping stations and five sewage treatment plants have been implemented at a sanctioned cost of ₹ 335.66 crore and sewage treatment capacity of 592 mld (million litres per day) has been created in the town under NRCP. In addition, for reducing pollution of river Godavari, pollution abatement works at a sanctioned cost ₹ 10.06 crore have been implemented and a total of 28.46 mld of sewage treatment capacity has been created in Bhadrachalam, Mancherla and Ramagundam towns in Telangana under NRCP.

CPCB has issued directions under Section 18 1(b) of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 in April, 2015 to all the State Pollution Control Boards/Pollution Control Committees in the country, including Telangana, regarding setting up of sewage treatment plants and utilization of sewage generated in their respective States. CPCB has also issued directions in October, 2015 to 69 municipal

authorities of metropolitan cities and State capitals under Section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 for proper treatment and disposal of sewage generated to control pollution in rivers.

To control discharge of industrial effluents, CPCB and respective State Pollution Control Boards/Pollution Control Committees monitor industries with respect to effluents discharge standards and take action for non-compliance under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. To improve the monitoring of compliance, directions have been issued to specific industries to install online 24x7 effluent and emission monitoring devices. Steps have also been taken by CPCB to promote low waste and no waste concept leading to Zero Liquid Discharge by grossly water polluting industries, particularly those located on the river banks.

(d) No international assistance has been received by this Ministry for removal of pollution in the above mentioned river stretches under NRCP.

Loss of prime forest

734. SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR ROY : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India has lost 2,511 sq.km. of prime forest;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (c) whether any plan is afoot to plant long lasting trees like sal, mehgini, banyan, neem, etc. alongside all the National Highways of the country to arrest soil erosion, encroachment and pollution;
- (d) if so, the details thereof, and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE) : (a) and (b) Forest Survey of India, Dehradun is carrying out the assessment of forest cover of the country biennially and the findings are published in India State of Forest Report. The latest report in the series is India State of Forest Report, 2015. As per this report, there is a net increase of 3775 square kilometers in the forest cover of the country as compared with India State of Forest Report, 2013. The states/UT-wise details of forest cover is given in the Statement (*See below.*)