

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS**Proposal for green cess**

*81. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is any proposal to impose green cess; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof, including the rate of such cess proposed and how it has been proposed to be utilized?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE): (a) and (b) This Ministry has no proposal under consideration to impose any green cess on the vehicles.

However, in the Writ Petition (Civil) No. 13029 of 1985 in the matter of "M.C. Mehta *versus* Union of India & Others" regarding air pollution matters in Delhi and National Capital Region (NCR), the Supreme Court on 09.10.2015 has ordered levy and collection of Environmental Compensation Charge (ECC) at the following rates:

- (i) The category 2 (light duty vehicles etc.) and Category 3 (2 axle trucks) at the rate of ₹ 700/- per vehicle.
- (ii) Category 4 (3 axle trucks) and Category 5 (4 axle trucks and above) at the rate of ₹ 1,300/- per truck.

Supreme Court on 05.01.2016 ordered that the ECC will be twice the charge stipulated by the order dated 09.10.2015.

The Supreme Court in its order dated 09.10.2015 has further directed that the amount so collected ought to be exclusively used for augmenting public transport and improving roads, particularly for most vulnerable users, that is, cyclists and pedestrians in Delhi.

Discharge of harmful waste by industries into river Ganga

†*82. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 786 given in the Rajya Sabha on 27th July, 2015 and state:

- (a) the steps Government has taken to check 764 polluting industries located on the banks of the river Ganga and the results thereof;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.