

51. Initiative taken for collaboration with National Remote Sensing Agency (NRSA) towards evolving an alert system in tiger reserves prone to natural disasters.
52. A joint report with Nepal and Bangladesh has been brought out on the assessment of tiger status in the terai arc landscape.
53. Initiative taken for collaboration of National Tiger Conservation Authority and Wildlife Crime Control Bureau towards an online tiger / wildlife crime tracking / reporting system in tiger reserves.
54. Guidelines for security audit of the tiger reserves have been finalised and is getting validated.
55. Tiger rich areas outside tiger reserves are being monitored or bestowing CA/TS certification.

#### **Use of plastic in day-to-day life**

521. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether use of plastic in day-to-day life has been found to be very damaging to the environment, especially the plastic used in packaging with thickness less than 40 microns which continues to be manufactured in a big way in utter violation of law in force;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what remedial measures Government has already taken or plans to take in near future to restrict the use of thin plastic in packaging industry to help save the environmental degradation; and

(d) whether Government has any specific plan to encourage use of degradable plastic in the country and 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) Plastic waste and discarded plastic material if not collected systematically may choke drainage system and create unhygienic conditions. Animals ingest plastic bags and/or sheets with the discarded food leading to their illness and sometimes death. Plastic waste, when disposed of on soil reduces recharging of ground water aquifers and, when disposed of in landfill sites causes leaching into the soil and ground water.

(c) and (d) The manufacturing and use of plastic packaging material and carry bags less than 50 microns is prohibited under Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016. State Pollution Control Boards and Local Bodies in the country are the prescribed

authorities for enforcing provisions of this Rule. Directions have been issued under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 to State agencies concerned for closure of units engaged in manufacturing, stocking and sale of thin Plastic carry bags or sheets or like. The use of carry bags made of compostable plastic is permitted under the Rules subject to certain conditions. The provision of thickness does not apply to carry bags made up of compostable plastic.

#### **Noise pollution in metropolitan cities**

522. SHRI AJAY SANCHETI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has made any study regarding increased level of noise pollution in Metropolitan cities in the country, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government has drawn any strategy to reduce noise pollution there and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to prevent the use of pressure horns in heavy vehicles in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE): (a) Ambient noise levels are monitored by Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) in association with State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs) / Pollution Control Committees (PCCs) in seven metro cities, namely Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Hyderabad, Bengaluru and Lucknow under National Ambient Noise Monitoring Programme (NANMP). The data indicates fluctuating trend in noise levels city-wise relevant details are given in the Statement (*See* below).

(b) As part of strategy to reduce noise pollution, the Ministry has notified the Noise Pollution (Regulation and Control) Rules, 2000 under the provisions of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, for the regulation and control of noise pollution. The noise standards for motor vehicles, air conditioners, refrigerators, gensets and certain types of construction equipments are prescribed in the Schedules of the Environment (Protection) Rules, 1986. The measures taken to reduce noise pollution in metropolitan cities inter alia include advisories for noise monitoring on the occasion of Deepawali; prohibition of the use of fireworks between 10.00 p.m. and 06.00 a.m.; publicity regarding the ill effects of fire-crackers and awareness programme to avoid bursting of fire-crackers; and issuance of directions under Section 5 of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and under section 18 (1) (b) of Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981.

(c) As per Rule 119(1) and (3) of the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989, the pressure horns (sirens and multi tone horns) are banned except for Police Van, Ambulance and Fire Brigades.