

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN): (a) to (c) The matter is *sub-judice* in the Hon'ble NGT.

**Development and conservation of forest cover**

†1309. SHRI SANJAY SETH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government has taken or proposes to take any steps to formulate an appropriate programme for proper development and conservation of forest cover in the country and for the development of forest based industries and people working therein;

(b) if so, the details thereof, as on date; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE): (a) to (c) Development and conservation of forests and development of forest based industries is primarily the responsibility of State/Union Territory Governments. However, the Central Government supports the efforts of State/Union Territory Governments to develop, conserve and manage the forests. To increase the forest cover in the country, afforestation programme is taken up under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes such as National Afforestation Programme, Green India Mission, Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), the Watershed Development Component of the "Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY)" and Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA). Further, financial assistance is provided to States and Union Territories for various forest conservation and protection measures under Centrally Sponsored Schemes such as Intensification of Forest Management Scheme, Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitat, Project Tiger etc. No specific guidelines for the development of forest based industries have been issued. However, the Ministry has issued detailed guidelines on Wood Based Industries (establishment and regulation) guidelines, 2016 *vide* letter no. 3-3/2015-SU (Vol. III) dated 23rd September, 2016.

**Restoration of river Jhelum**

1310. SHRI NAZIR AHMED LAWAY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has a plan to bring river Jhelum under the National

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.