

State Governments within the NCR; issuance of directions under Section 18(1)(b) of Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 and under Section 5 of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986; installation of on-line continuous (24x7) monitoring devices by major industries; collection of Environmental Protection Charge on more than 2000 CC diesel vehicles in Delhi; notification of Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) for different levels of air pollution in NCR.

Inventory of flora and fauna of Western Ghats

368. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government would initiate complete documentation on the inventory of flora and fauna of the entire 1,500 km. stretch of Western Ghats so that its rich biological diversity can be preserved and protected; and

(b) whether Government would also initiate and collect exact specific data of the forest cover of Western Ghats to prevent its decline?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE): (a) and (b) Organisations such as the Botanical Survey of India (BSI), the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) and the Forest Survey of India (FSI) undertake surveys for documenting flora and fauna and forest cover across the country including areas falling under Western Ghats. The Government of India has undertaken several steps for the conservation and protection of the biodiversity of Western Ghats, which includes establishment of Protected Areas (PAs) comprising 16 National Parks, 54 Wildlife Sanctuaries, 6 Conservation Reserves, 1 Community Reserves, 9 Tiger Reserves and 2 Elephant Reserves to provide stringent protection to both flora and fauna under the provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. In addition, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) has issued a draft notification dated 04.09.2015 for declaring an area of 56,825 square kilometres as ecologically sensitive covering six States in the Western Ghats.

Environmental impact of cyclone Vardah

369. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has made any study to assess the environmental impact on Chennai city and its neighbouring areas, due to cyclone Vardah which devastated the whole area;