

46. Assessment of Status, Density and Change in Forest Cover in and around tiger reserves of the Shivalik Gangetic Plain Landscape done in collaboration with the Forest Survey of India.
47. A Rhino Task Force has suggested measures to strengthen rhino protection in the Kaziranga Tiger Reserve.
48. In-principle approval has been accorded for creation of Rhino Protection Force at Kaziranga Tiger Reserve.
49. Supporting a health insurance scheme for forest guards in Kaziranga Tiger Reserve.
50. Fostering a voluntary group "Friends for Rhino" for eliciting public support for rhino conservation with active local participation around Kaziranga Tiger Reserve.
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 for bestowing CA/TS certification.

Animals barred from exhibition in public

373. SHRI A. VIJAYAKUMAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has any proposal to review the list of animals that are not allowed to be exhibited in public;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether there is any proposals to include elephants in the lists as so much cruelty is being done to that animal; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) At present, no such proposal is under consideration in this Ministry.

(d) Question does not arise.

Air pollution in metro cities

374. SHRI DARSHAN SINGH YADAV:

SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) the level of air pollution in all the metro cities of the country as on December, 2016;

(b) the names of the metro cities which are following the basic guidelines to prevent further pollution of the air;

(c) the details of steps being taken to contain various types of pollution taking place in the cities; and

(d) what action is being stipulated to contain pollution?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE): (a) and (b) Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) and State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs)/Pollution Control Committees (PCCs) monitors the ambient air quality at 680 monitoring stations located in 300 cities/towns covering 29 States and 6 Union Territories across the country under National Air Quality Monitoring Programme (NAMP). The ambient air quality data for metro cities during 2014-2016 is given in the Statement (*See below*). CPCB has issued directions to non-attainment cities for implementation of measures to mitigate air pollution in 2016.

(c) and (d) The major steps taken by Government to contain various types of pollution taking place in the cities, *inter alia*, include notification of National Ambient Air Quality Standards; formulation of environmental regulations/statutes; setting up of monitoring network for assessment of ambient air quality; introduction of cleaner/alternate fuels like gaseous fuel (CNG, LPG etc.), ethanol blending; promotion of cleaner production processes; launching of National Air Quality index; universalization of BS-IV by 2017; leapfrogging from BS-IV to BS-VI fuel standards by 1st April,