

(a) whether Maharashtra Government has requested for the diversion of 564.00 hectares of forest land under section 2 (ii) and 2 (iii) of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for development of proposed International Standard Zoo Safari and Wildlife Rescue Centre at Gorewada, Nagpur; and

(b) if so, Government's response thereto and by when it would be cleared/sanctioned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The proposal is being processed in this Ministry as per the provisions of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

#### **Widespread drought in forests**

1969. SHRI K. SOMAPRASAD: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government noticed the widespread drought in forests, especially in Western Ghats; and

(b) if so, the details and measures Government is planning to take to tackle the issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE): (a) and (b) No such report regarding widespread drought in forests, especially in Western Ghats has been received. Therefore, no specific measures are planned.

#### **CEA recommendations on setting up of new thermal power plants**

†1970. SHRI VIVEK K. TANKHA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry is aware of the report submitted by the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) containing recommendations for not setting up any new thermal power plant till the year 2022;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that despite this report, the Ministry has recommended setting up of new thermal power plants of about 17,000 megawatt; and

(c) if so, whether it is not a deviation from Government's commitment of achieving the targets of climate change?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.