THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change announced a collaborative R&D programme for development of low global warming potential (GWP) alternatives to Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) on 16th September 2016, the 22nd International Ozone Day. The Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol for phase down of HFCs adopted by the 28th Meeting of Parties to the Montreal Protocol held in Kigali, Rwanda in October, 2016 has underscored the necessity of transition to such low GWP alternatives. The aim of the collaborative research programme is to develop cost effective alternate technologies to HFCs using low GWP non Ozone Depleting Substances, indigenously, which *inter alia* includes development of next generation sustainable refrigerants.

NGT ban on burning of waste

1973. SHRI N. GOKULAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Green Tribunal (NGT) has imposed a ban on burning of waste and whether its violation would be penalised with a fine; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE): (a) and (b) The National Green Tribunal has issued directions in W.P. No. 199/2014 in the matter of Almitra H. Patel & Others *versus* Union of India & Others on 22nd December, 2016 and 2nd January, 2017 imposing complete prohibition on open burning of waste on lands, including at landfill sites. For each such incident or default, violators including the project proponent, concessionaire, Urban Local Body (ULB) or any person or body responsible for such burning, is liable to pay environmental compensation of ₹ five thousand in case of simple burning, and rupees twenty five thousand in case of bulk waste burning. Environmental compensation is recoverable as arrears of land revenue by the competent authority in accordance with law.

Revival of Kolar gold mines

1974. Dr. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any plans to revive the Kolar gold mines; and

(b) if so, the plans thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) and (b) The Government has initiated exploration of the left over mined area and tailing dumps of Kolar Gold mines for assessment of remaining resources. The revival of Kolar Gold Mines will depend on techno-economic feasibility.

Complaints of illegal mining

1975. SHRI BISHNU CHARAN DAS: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of complaints received about illegal mining in Odisha, Bihar and Jharkhand during the last three years;

(b) the details of action taken on these complaints, year-wise;

(c) the areas wherefrom these cases have been reported; and

(d) whether any enquiry has been constituted on these complaints?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) to (d) Section 23C of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation), 1957 (MMDR Act, 1957), empowers State Governments to frame rules for preventing illegal mining, transportation and storage of minerals for the purposes connected therewith. As such, details relating to illegal mining are not maintained centrally as prevention and control of illegal mining comes under the legislative and administrative jurisdiction of State Governments.

However, based on the quarterly returns on illegal mining submitted by various State Governments to Indian Bureau of Mines (a subordinate office under the Ministry of Mines), details of instances of illegal mining reported by the State of Odisha and Jharkhand for the last three years along with the details of action taken against the offenders/criminals and fine realised are given in Statement (*See* below). Details in this regard for the State of Bihar are not available as the same have not been reported by the State Government.