

[23 July, 2004]

RAJYA SABHA

(c) The steps taken to reduce the attacks are as follows:-Steps taken by the Central Government:-

- (i) A grant of Rs. 1.5 crores has been approved for construction of boundary wall at Mallad.
- (ii) The Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 has been amended and a special provision has been made to remove all encroachments from the National Parks and sanctuaries.

Steps taken by the State Government:—

- (i) 35 traps have been set up at various strategic points around Sanjay Gandhi National Park in problem hit areas to trap the leopards and so far 11 leopards have been trapped since 1st of June 2004.
- (ii) Massive awareness campaign has been launched to educate the people about the precautions to be taken to avoid leopard attacks.
- (iii) Regular patrolling of the problem area by a patrolling squad specially formed for the purpose is being done along with the local volunteers and the nature lovers.

#### **Misuse of funds earmarked for clearing rivers**

1091. SHRI DARA SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to an urgent need of clearing up of important rivers—like Yamuna, Ganga etc. in the country;

(b) whether any enquiry has, so far, been instituted to investigate into the alleged misuse of funds earmarked for clearing up Ganga and Yamuna rivers;

(c) If so, the details of the outcome thereof,

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the concrete measures Government propose to take or taken till date to ensure that funds earmarked in this regard are not misused?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) A scheme of National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) is under implementation to cover pollution abatement works in 157 towns along the polluted stretches of 31 rivers (which include rivers Ganga and Yamuna also) spread over 18 States at a total approved cost of Rs. 4688 crore including Central and State share. The objective of the National River Conservation Plan is to improve the water quality of the rivers through the implementation of the following pollution abatement works;

- Interception and diversion works to capture the raw sewage flowing into the river through open drains and divert them for treatment.
- Sewage treatment plants for treating the diverted sewage.
- Low cost sanitation works to prevent open defecation on river banks.
- Electric crematoria and improved wood crematoria to conserve the use of wood and help in ensuring proper cremation of bodies brought to the burning ghats.
- River front development works such as improvement of bathing ghats etc.
- Other minor miscellaneous works like afforestation, public participation, public awareness etc.

(b) to (d) Yes, Sir. An inquiry has been instituted by the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) to investigate into misuse of funds for cleaning of river Yamuna in case of procurement of Diesel Generating Sets for community toilet complexes constructed in Delhi under Yamuna Action Plan. During the course of investigation, it has transpired that certain irregularities were committed in the purchase of Diesel Generating Sets by the electrical Division of MCD. On the basis of investigations, 32 officials/ officers have been charge-sheeted. The State Government of Uttar Pradesh has also informed that investigation into the misuse of funds for cleaning up of Yamuna river at Mathura has also been initiated.

In the case of the river Ganga, during the hearing of a Public Interest Litigation (PIL), Hon'ble High Court at Allahabad had also observed the misuse and misappropriations of Ganga Action Plan funds and appointed

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an audit team. The replies of the concerned parties on the report of the audit team have been submitted to the court.

(e) The implementation of NRCP, which includes cleaning of Ganga and Yamuna rivers, is monitored by both the Government of India and the State Governments at various levels regularly. Funds are released to the implementing agencies/State Governments only after the receipt of proper Utilization Certificates authenticated by competent authorities.

### **Employment in FPIs**

1092. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the amount spent on the Food Processing Industries in the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) the number of people to whom employment has been provided in the industry during 2003-04 and likely to be provided in 2004-05, separately;

(b) the number of people to whom employment has been provided in the industry during 2003-04 and likely to be provided in 2004-05, separately;

(c) whether any target for creation of jobs has been fixed for the said period and the measures taken to achieve this target; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAI): (a) The Ministry of Food Processing Industries spent Rs. 195.66 crores for the Ninth Five Year Plan.

(b) to (d) There is significant scope of growth of employment in food processing sector. In order to give boost to agro processing industries, the Government has announced on 8th July, 2004 in Parliament to allow under Income Tax Act, a deduction of 100% of profit for five years and 25% of profits for the next five years in case of new agro processing industries set up to process, preserve and package fruits and vegetables. Present excise duty of 16% on dairy machinery has been fully waived. Excise duty on meat, poultry and fish products has been reduced from 16% to 8%. Excise

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.