

(d) whether any environment norms have been violated in the process of earmarking projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) As per EIA Notification 2006, Hydroelectric projects, which require environment clearance from Union Ministry of Environment and Forests has to prepare Environmental Impact Assessment report which include risk assessment of the project. On the basis of the study hydroelectric projects are designed.

(c) Findings of these studies varies from project to project which includes likely affected areas and magnitudes. Environmental safeguard measures are incorporated in these reports to check any disaster to the bio diversity and environment around the hydro electric projects.

(d) While according environment clearance the safeguards are incorporated. Implementation of these are monitored by the Regional office of the Ministry. Violation, if any, are brought to the notice of the project proponent and corrective action taken.

Protection of forests by villagers

2493. KUMARI NIRMALA DESHPANDE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the villagers in tribal areas are being involved in protecting the forests;
- (b) if so, the mechanism thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) and (b) As per the provisions of National Forest Policy, 1988 Government of India has issued guidelines to States on June 1, 1990 to involve village, communities in regeneration and protection of forest areas under the Joint Forest Management programme. The JFM strategy has been adopted by all the 28 States and 2 Union Territories. As per the information furnished by the State Forest Departments there are more than one lakh village level Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMCs) managing approximately 22 million hectare of forest area.

- (c) Does not arise.

Banning production of fluorescent lights

2494. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government have received any representation to ban the production of excessive compact fluorescent lights, which lead to climate change and energy crisis in the country;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any action to control the production of compact fluorescent lights which has increased to 44 million in the current year;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (d) No, Sir. The Government of India is promoting the use of Compact Fluorescent Lamps (CFLs) as they, use 75% less energy, thereby reducing green house gas emissions that contribute to global climate change and lasts 6 times longer than conventional incandescent bulbs. As per Bureau of Energy Efficiency, Ministry of Power, the sales of CFLs in India has grown from about 20 million in 2003 to more than 90 million in 2006.

Carbon dioxide in atmosphere

2495. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the quantity of the carbon dioxide has increased tremendously in the atmosphere and as a result thereof the temperature of earth has been increasing;

(b) if so, the quantity thereof so increased during the last three years, year-wise and country-wise; and

(c) the efforts which are being made by Government to reduce this quantity to keep the earth in a normal atmosphere?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) According to Fourth Assessment Report of the three Working Groups of the Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change, the global atmospheric concentration of carbon dioxide has increased at the rate of 2.5 parts per million (ppm) by volume per year since the year 2000. The atmospheric concentrations of carbon dioxide during three years, viz. 2005, 2004 and 2003, were 379 ppm, 376.5 ppm and 374 ppm respectively. The country-wise estimates of atmospheric concentration are not recorded. The updated 100 years linear trend of increase of average global surface air temperature is 0.74 degree Celsius.

(c) The Government of India is a Party to the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and has set up the National Clean Development Mechanism Authority to accord Host Country Approvals (HCA) to eligible Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) projects. India also has the largest number of projects under the CDM of the Kyoto Protocol, which reduce net emissions of greenhouse gases.

Further, even though India as a developing country does not have any mitigation commitments, nevertheless, a sustainable development path is being followed through a range of policies and programmes to mitigate climate change: