

of Indian economy, namely, agriculture, water, forests and human health in four regions of India, viz. the Himalayan region, the Western Ghats, the Coastal region and the North-Eastern Region.

(c) to (f) The vulnerability and likely impacts have been factored in the focus of Government India's action. The Government is implementing National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) which comprises of missions in specific areas of solar energy, energy efficiency, water, agriculture, Himalayan eco-system, sustainable habitat, green India and strategic knowledge on Climate Change. Most of these Missions, *inter alia*, focus on Climate Change adaptation. Thirty two States/Union Territories have prepared their State Action Plan on Climate Change (SAPCC) in line with NAPCC taking into account State's specific issues relating to Climate Change. These SAPCCs *inter alia* outline sector specific and cross sectoral priority actions including adaptation.

The Government is implementing the scheme, "National Adaptation Fund for Climate Change" to support adaptation measures of States/UTs in areas that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate Change.

Groundwater pollution monitoring programme

40. SHRI NARAYAN LAL PANCHARIYA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has launched any programme for monitoring pollution levels in groundwater;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government has set any parameters for gauging the level of pollution in groundwater; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) and (b) Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) is carrying out water quality monitoring under National Water Quality Monitoring Programme (NWMP) at 3500 locations including monitoring of groundwater resources in association with State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs) and Pollution Control Committees (PCCs) in 29 States and 6 Union Territories to fulfill the mandate of Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 through a nationwide water quality monitoring network. Under NWMP, 989 wells are monitored across the country. Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) is also monitoring ground water quality at more than 15000 locations in the country.

(c) and (d) Groundwater is monitored twice a year (*i.e.* during pre-monsoon and post-monsoon season) for parameters as per the “Guidelines on Water Quality Monitoring 2017” issued by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. The parameters include General parameters, Nutrient parameters, Major ions, Inorganic Parameters, Demand Parameters, and Micropollutants (Pesticides and Heavy metals).

Study to assess pollution in Mannar Biosphere reserve

41. DR. SASIKALA PUSHPA RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has undertaken any study to assess the pollution caused to Gulf of Mannar Biosphere reserve by a Copper plant which is situated 14 kms. from the bioreserve;

(b) if so, details thereof; and

(c) if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) and (b) The Gulf of Mannar Biosphere Reserve Trust, Government of Tamil Nadu, funded a study entitled ‘Quantification and impact of domestic and industrial effluents discharges in to Gulf of Mannar in Tuticorin district with specific focus on heavy metal concentration in water, sediment and biological samples’ to the Department of Marine Science, Bharathidasan University, Trichy, Tamil Nadu. The Sterlite Copper plant was included in the study and was one among the fifteen sampling stations. The samples were collected during different seasons for the period of July, 2014 to June, 2016 for analysing heavy metals such as Cadmium (Cd), Copper (Cu), Lead (Pb) and Zinc (Zn). The concentration of heavy metals in water and sediment samples of the study area were found higher in the industrial and sewage discharging sites. Also, the concentration of heavy metals were found to be more in sediment samples than in water samples.

(c) In view of (a) and (b) above, the question does not arise.

Status of diversion of forest land in Belgaum

42. SHRI K. C. RAMAMURTHY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received any request for diversion of 72 hectares of forest land from Karnataka Government to Rani Chennamma University in Belgaum district; and