

Forest Land Acquisition without consent

194. SHRI SANJAY SETH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to State:

(a) whether it is a fact that the forest land is being diverted for mining or other industrial purposes in Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Uttar Pradesh, etc. without the consent of tribals and forest dwellers; and

(b) if so, the manner in which the forest clearance application is being approved without consulting the stakeholders?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI BABUL SUPRIYO): (a) and (b) No. Sir. No forest land proposed for diversion for mining or other industrial purposes is considered or approved for diversion without certificate of compliance under "The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006" by the competent authority in the State.

Pollution in the rivers of Tamil Nadu

195. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of polluted stretches of rivers in the State of Tamil Nadu, as per the report of the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), 2018; and

(b) the details of Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs) that have been set up in the polluted stretches of rivers in the State of Tamil Nadu, subsequent to publication of CPCB report in 2018?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI BABUL SUPRIYO): (a) Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) in association with the State Pollution Control Board (SPCBs) is monitoring the water quality of rivers on a regular basis. As per a report published by CPCB in September, 2018, the stretches of river Cauvery (Mettur to Mayiladuthurai), Sarabanga river (Thathayampatti to T. Konagapadi), Thirumanimuthar river (Salem to Pappalapatti), Vasista river (Manivilundhan to Thiyaganur), Bhavani river (Sirumugai to Kalingarayan) and Tambirapani river (Pappankulam to Toarumuganeri) in Tamil Nadu have been identified as polluted based on Bio-chemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) level in rivers, a key indicator of organic pollution.

(b) Pollution abatement of rivers and water bodies is a continuous and ongoing

process. It is the responsibility of the State Governments/concerned local bodies to set up facilities for collection, transportation and treatment of sewage being generated and ensure that untreated sewage does not fall into the rivers and water bodies, thereby polluting them. This Ministry has been supplementing the efforts of the State Governments in abatement of pollution in identified stretches of various rivers under the scheme of National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) and conservation and management of lakes and wetlands under a separate scheme of National Plan for Conservation of Aquatic Eco-system (NPCA), on a cost sharing basis between the Central and State Governments.

Financial assistance has been provided to the State of Tamil Nadu in 13 towns, at a sanction cost of ₹ 905.78 crores till date. Sewage Treatment Capacity of 477.66 mld and 15 STPs has been created so far.

India's record in environmental protection

196. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India's current performance with regard to environmental protection is not desirable with reference to global standards; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the special policy based steps proposed to be taken by Government in coming times?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI BABUL SUPRIYO): (a) and (b) The Central Government has taken a number of regulatory measures for prevention, control and abatement of air pollution in the country.

Action Plans for Improvement of Air Quality in Delhi NCR:—

- (i) Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) was notified on January 12, 2017, for prevention, control and abatement of air pollution in Delhi and NCR. It identifies graded measures and implementing agencies for response to four AQI categories, namely, Moderate to Poor, Very Poor, Severe and Severe + or Emergency.
- (ii) The Central Government has notified a Comprehensive Action Plan (CAP) in 2018 identifying timelines and implementing agencies for actions identified for prevention, control and mitigation of air pollution in Delhi and NCR.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.