

- Development of mechanism for redressal of public complaints regarding air pollution issues in Delhi and NCR [(through 'Sameer App', 'Emails' (*aircomplaints.cpcb@gov.in*) and 'Social Media Networks' (Facebook and Twitter)] etc.

With regards to prevention and control of water pollution, several measures have been taken:—

- Directions have been issued under Section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 regarding 'Treatment and Utilization of Sewage for Restoration of Water Quality of River' to Municipal Corporations of 46 Metropolitan cities and 20 State Capitals.
- Directions have been issued under Section 18 (1) (b) of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 to SPCBs/PCCs regarding treatment and utilization of sewage.
- The continuous water quality monitoring systems have been established on industrial units in the country for getting real time information on the effluent quality and non-complying unit were identify and action taken.
- 40% increase (2500 to 3500) in manual and 360% (10-46) increase in Real Time Water Quality Monitoring stations during the last five years.
- Stipulation of general discharge standards and industry specific effluent discharge standards under Environment (Protection) Rules, 1986 so as to prevent pollution of the water bodies.
- Indicative guidelines for restoration of water bodies issued as a guidance to the stakeholders for ensuring restoration/rejuvenation of water bodies.

Protection and conservation of Western Ghats

197. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Western Ghats declared as World Heritage Natural Site is under severe threat due to construction activities, infrastructure development, tree felling, expansion of cities and towns, increased agricultural activities etc;

(b) action Government has taken on the recommendations of Dr. Kasturirangan led Committee on Western Ghats constituted by Government;

(c) amount of funds allocated by Government for protection and conservation of this World Heritage Natural Site; and

(d) whether any action to stop illegal mining, protection of areas from where the rivers originate and preservation of ecosystem has been taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI BABUL SUPRIYO): (a) and (b) The Western Ghats covers area falling in Eco-Sensitive Areas (ESAs) in the States of Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Goa, Maharashtra and Gujarat. Keeping in view of the importance of area, Western Ghats have been designated as National Parks/Wildlife Sanctuaries/Reserved Forests, wherein construction activities, infrastructure development, tree felling, expansion of cities and towns, increased agricultural activities etc. are not permitted.

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) has taken action on the recommendations of High Level Working Group (HLWG) report headed by Dr. Kasturirangan. This Ministry in principle accepted the HLWG report, which recommended prohibition or regulation of identified projects and activities in the Eco-Sensitive Areas (ESA), which have interventionist and destructive impacts on natural ecosystems. Based on the recommendation of the HLWG, the MoEF& CC issued directions under Section 5 of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 *vide* Order dated 13.11.2013 to respective State Governments of the Western Ghats regions to prohibit five categories of new and/or expansion projects/activities in the ESA of the Western Ghats, namely (i) Mining, quarrying and sand mining, (ii) Thermal Power Plants, (iii) Building and construction projects of 20,000 square meter area and above, (iv) Township and area development projects with an area of 50 hectare and above and/or with built up area of 1,50,000 square meter and above, and (v) Red category of industries.

In order to follow a coherent and consistent approach in notifying the ESA of the Western Ghats, Ministry had interactions with all the States of Western Ghats region at various levels from the year 2015-16 till date. Draft notification of Western Ghats has been re-published on 3.10.2018.

(c) Funds released by the MoEF&CC are given in the Statement (*See* below).

(d) The concerned department of State Government is empowered to take appropriate action against illegal mining as per the provision under section 23 (c) of Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957. However, any operating mines which has not taken/granted prior environmental clearance from regulatory authority within the provision of Environmental Impact Assessment notification, 2006 is considered as unlawful activity/illegal mining.

Statement

(A) Funds released in last three years for Biosphere Reserve (BR) falling in the Western Ghats

(₹ in lakh)

Biosphere Reserve/Fund Released	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
Nilgiri BR	56.62	142.534	95.864
Agasthiarmalai BR	137.656	192.6293	142.953
TOTAL	194.276	335.1633	238.817

(B) Funds released in last three years for National Parks (NP)/Wildlife Sanctuaries (WLS) falling in Western Ghats

(₹ in lakh)

Name of Wildlife Sanctuaries/ National Parks	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
Shendurney WLS	36.68	41.34	44.844
Neyyar WLS	30.96	37.452	40.0032
Peppara WLS	28.28	32.606	34.488
Eravikulam National Park	34.89	41.448	55.866
Chinnar WLS	28.95	33.222	34.842
Silent Valley NP	63.78	65.964	77.37
Mukurti NP	0.00	13.83	18.975
Pushpagiri WLS	13.45	16.69	23.4636
Brahmagiri WLS	16.82	23.36	35.10
Talacuvary WLS	9.07	11.59	16.6689
Alaram WLS	35.37	41.586	49.104
Kudremukh WLS	27.58	28.16	36.0621
Someshwara WLS	13.28	16.98	23.7594
Radhanagari WLS	30.53	79.236	84.972
TOTAL	369.64	483.464	575.5182

*(C) Funds released in last three years for Tiger Reserves falling
in Western Ghats*

	(₹ in lakh)		
Tiger Reserve	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
Kalakad-Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve	183.42	207.26	290.31
Periyar Tiger Reserve	429.65	366.10	365.75
Parambikulam Tiger Reserve	350.58	270.31	287.28
Sahyadri Tiger Reserve	257.19	286.91	386.06
TOTAL	1220.84	1130.58	1329.4

Sale of stakes of State owned companies

198. SHRI JOSE K. MANI: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has planned to swiftly proceed with the strategic stake sale in at least ten State owned companies for rebooting the economy;

(b) whether this exercise is likely to mop up ₹ 90,000 crores from disinvestment proceeds in the current financial year; and

(c) whether Government has already the necessary approval for selling stakes in about 24 companies including the national flag carrier Air India?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI ARVIND GANPAT SAWANT): (a) and (b) Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) has informed that the Government has given 'in-principle' approval for strategic disinvestment of 28 CPSEs including Subsidiaries, Units and Joint Ventures with sale of majority stake of Government of India and transfer of management control. The proceeds from strategic sale will depend on various factors, including market conditions, at the time of actual sale.

(c) Yes, Sir.

Revival of closed PSUs

199. SHRI RIPUN BORA: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that two Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) namely Panchgram Paper Mill and Jagiroad Paper Mill of Assam have been closed down;