

[3 May, 2002]

RAJYA SABHA

Statement-IV

Encroachment on the forest land

State/UT	Encroachment (in ha.)
Andhra Pradesh	341322.02
Arunachal Pradesh	4038.30
Assam	254711.00
Bihar	2177.26
Goa	1011.58
Gujarat	5484.12
Haryana	.851.77
Himachal Pradesh	1493.06
Jammu & Kashmir	15406.00
Kerala	45970.78
Madhya Pradesh	72811.00
Manipur	0.32
Meghalaya	15464.00
Mizoram	12.76
Orissa	75696.00
Punjab	4409.42
Rajasthan	1758424
Tamil Nadu	18283.00
Tripura	41927.00
Uttar Pradesh	25209.56
TOTAL :	943863.19

Pollution of water bodies

3987. SHRI B.S. GNANADESIKAN : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether 83 per cent of water bodies in our country are polluted;
- (b) if so, the steps taken to rectify the abysmal state of water bodies;
- (c) the details of water pollution prevention projects being undertaken with respect to Tamil Nadu; and

(d) the details of funds allocated to various projects with respect to Tamil Nadu'?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) The water bodies are polluted at places where untreated/ partially treated waste water is disposed. A scheme of National River Conservation Plan for pollution abatement of 27 rivers in 152 towns in 16 States is under implementation. Industries discharging waste water into rivers and lakes have been identified and polluting industries directed to set up requisite pollution control facilities. The State Pollution Control Boards have also put restrictions on sitting of industries along the banks of rivers and water bodies. Under the National Lake Conservation Plan, a total 10 polluted urban lakes have been shortlisted for conservation. Of these, proposals of Powai Lake in Maharashtra and Ooty and Kodaikanal in Tamil Nadu have been approved and are under implementation.

(e) and (d) Pollution abatement works have been approved in 13 towns in Tamil Nadu at a total cost of Rs. 1103.10 crore. These works include such components as interception & diversion, sewage treatment plants, low cost sanitation, improved wood crematoria and river front development.

The town and river-wise cost of works approved is as under :—

SI. No.	Town	River	Approved Amount (Rs. in crore)
1	2	3	4
1.	Chennai	Chennai Waterways	491.52
2.	Trichy	Cauvery	6.55
3.	Bhavani	Cauvery	3.50
4.	Kumarapalayam	Cauvery	5.94
5.	Pallipalayam	Cauvery	5.40
6.	Erode	Cauvery	14.89
7.	Karur	Cauvery	38.50
8.	Kumbakonam	Cauvery	50.60
9.	Myladuthurai	Cauvery	4620
10.	Thanjavur	Vennar	77.00

1	2	3	4
11.	Tirunelveli	Tambrabami	66.00
12.	Srirangam & additional areas of Trichy Madurai	Cauvery/Coleroon Vaigai	132.00 165.00
13.			
		TOTAL	1103.10

An amount of Rs. 112.33 crore has been released to the State Government for these works till date.

Conservation and management Plans of Ooty & Kodaikanal lakes have been approved at a cost of Rs. 1.95 crore and Rs. 6.33 crore respectively. An amount of Rs. 3 crore has been released to the State Government for these plans till date.

Majuli Island as world heritage

3988. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the world heritage proposal of Majuli Island under cultural landscape category has been taken up with the Ministry of Tourism and Culture to complete the dossier preparation well in time;

(b) if so, the details thereof, indicating dates of joint meetings held, strategy and work schedule finalized, local co-ordinating agency entrusted, list of experts enlisted, field work done and achievement made, till date; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and the details of action plan finalized to fulfil the requirement of UNESCO ?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) to (c) In response to the proposal submitted by the Ministry of Environment and Forests seeking financial help for preparation of detailed nomination dossier for Majuli Island, the World Heritage Committee has sanctioned US\$ 20,000 on 14.10.2001. The copies of the same were sent by the World Heritage Centre for further action to the State Government of Assam and the Archaeological Survey of India only. Furthermore, the Majuli Island has been accepted as a "Cultural Landscape" site and not as a "Natural" site. In this background, the Ministry was awaiting action from the State