

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
RAJYA SABHA
QUESTION NO 21.12.2009
ANSWERED ON
THREAT TO ECOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENT IN AGENCY AREAS .

3427

Smt. T. Ratna Bai

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :-

- (a) whether there is threat to the ecology and environment in the agency areas;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps being taken to protect the same during the Eleventh Five Year Plan?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS

(SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a)&(b)The National Environment Policy 2006 recognises the key ecological and environmental challenges the country faces including agency areas. These challenges are connected with the state of environmental resources, such as land, water, air and flora and fauna. The causes of environmental degradation include population growth, inappropriate technology and consumption choices, poverty and livelihood dependence on natural resources and development activities such as intensive agriculture, polluting industry, unplanned urbanization, etc.

(c)National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) outlining the strategy to meet the challenge of Climate Change; setting up of National Ganga River Basin Authority (NGRBA) for conservation and holistic management of river Ganga; setting up of scientific, objective and transparent processes for environmental and forest clearance of the projects; revision of National Ambient and Air Quality Standards; release of guidelines and funds of Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority for its utilisation; guidelines for convergence of National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) and National Afforestation Programme (NAP) for pooling of resources, technology and information for Natural Resource Management; Voluntary relocation/rehabilitation of villages and human settlements from Wildlife Sanctuaries and National Parks for creating inviolate space and integrity of important wildlife habitats; Additional Central Assistance for 'Accelerated Programme of Restoration and Regeneration of Forest Cover'; introduction of National Green Tribunal (NGT) Bill for effective and expeditious disposal of cases relating to environmental protection, forest conservation, and other natural resources including compensating victims of pollution and other environmental damage are some of the major steps initiated during the current plan period.