

(b) and (c) No APO for the year 2011-12 for release of GAMPFA funds has yet been received from the Government of Madhya Pradesh.

Statement

List of States/UTs from which Annual Plans of Operation for release of funds for the year 2011-12 have been received

1. Andhra Pradesh
2. Dadra & Nagar Haveli
3. Himachal Pradesh
4. Karnataka
5. Orissa
6. Punjab
7. Sikkim
8. Uttarakhand

Ban on sand mining along river Ganga

1572. SHRI Y.S. CHOWDARY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had written to the States to put blanket ban on sand mining across India especially along the holy river Ganga;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has received any reply from the States; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government to stop the sand mining along the holy river Ganga?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Environment and Forests has not put any ban on sand mining across India; however, mining of minerals including sand mining projects having lease area of 5 ha and above require prior environmental clearance under the Environment Impact Assessment Notification, 2006 issued under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. With specific

reference to illegal river bed sand mining taking place along the Ganga river in Uttarakhand, particularly around Haridwar, the Ministry of Environment and Forests had written to the State Government of Uttarakhand to stop illegal river bed sand mining.

(c) The Ministry of Environment and Forests has not received any response from the Government of Uttarakhand in this regard.

(d) The non-compliance of EIA Notification, 2006 would attract action under the penal provision of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

Use of forest land by industries in Orissa

1573. SHRIMATI RENUBALA PRADHAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of land covered under forests in Orissa;

(b) how much forest land is being used by mining, industry, power sector, so far in the State; and

(c) how those sectors, utilizing forest land, are compensating for the development of people living in those areas of forests and various measures including afforestation taken by the various beneficiary Ministries in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) As per the State of Forest Report-2009 published by the Forest Survey of India, Dehradun, recorded forest area of Orissa is 58,136 km², which constitutes 37.33% of the total geographical area of Orissa. Actual forest cover in Orissa, as per the said report, is 48,855 km² which constitutes 31.38% of the total geographical area of the State.

(b) So far, Central Government accorded 494 approvals under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of 51,504.59 ha. of forest land in Orissa. Category-wise distribution of the same are given in Statement (See below).

(c) To compensate the loss of forest cover, approvals accorded under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 are subject to transfer, mutation & declaration as Reserved Forest/Protected Forest under the Indian Forest Act, 1927 of equivalent non-forest land for compensatory afforestation, realisation of the Net Present Value (NPV) & cost of creation of compensatory afforestation etc. from the user agency and proper resettlement and rehabilitation of the project affected families. Environment clearance, if required, for such projects, also provides for socio economic benefits for the settlements located in vicinity of the project sites.