

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3447
ANSWERED ON:16.04.2008
ENFORCEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS
Siddeswara Shri Gowdar Mallikarjunappa

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

- (a) whether some eminent environmentalists have expressed their concern over the poor enforcement of various environmental laws in the country including Karnataka;
- (b) if so, the details of the same alongwith the extent of their implementation/enforcement;
- (c) the date on which the last review of environmental laws prevalent in the country was undertaken;
- (d) the strategy adopted by the Union Government in this regard; and
- (e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to strictly implement the existing environmental laws in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS(SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

(a)& (b): No, Sir.

(c),(d)&(e) : The Parliament has enacted several environmental statutes for protection of environment and conservation of natural resources. The umbrella legislation for protection of environment is the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. Under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, various rules / notifications have been issued. The review of the statutes/rules is undertaken by this Ministry in consultation with various stakeholders from time to time depending on the experience gained in the course of implementation of the statutes/rules; like the Environment Impact Assessment notification was initially framed in January,1994 and was last amended on 14th September, 2006. The Noise Pollution (Regulation and Control) Rules, 2000 were framed in November, 2000 and were subsequently amended in October, 2002. The Bio-Medical Waste (Management and Handling) Rules were framed in 1998 and were amended in the year 2000 & 2003. These statutes/rules are being enforced through the State Governments/Central/State Pollution Control Boards and also other authorities constituted under the other statutes. The Central/State Pollution Control Boards periodically hold meetings to assess the implementation of the environmental laws.