

42

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES (2016-2017)

SIXTEENTH LOK SABHA

FORTY-SECOND REPORT

REVIEW OF PENDING ASSURANCES PERTAINING
TO THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT,
FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

(Presented to Lok Sabha on 15 December, 2016)



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

December, 2016/Agrahayana, 1938 (Saka)

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NEW DELHI
December, 2016/Agrahayana, 1938 (Saka)

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CONTENTS

	PAGE
COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE (2016-17)	(iii)
COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE (2015-2016)	(v)
INTRODUCTION	(vii)
REPORT	
I. Introductory	1
II. Review of Pending Assurances pertaining to the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change	4
III. Implementation Reports	8
APPENDICES	
I. USQ No. 672 dated 08.07.2009 regarding ‘Setting up of National Environment Protection Authority’	9
II. SQ No. 90 dated 25.11.2009 regarding ‘National Environment Protection Authority’	10
III. USQ No. 3595 dated 1.12.2010 regarding ‘Setting up of NEPA’	12
IV. USQ No. 1317 dated 08.08.2011 regarding ‘NEAMA’	13
V. USQ No. 2925 dated 12.12.2011 regarding ‘Establishment of NEAMA’	14
VI. USQ No. 1951 dated 26.03.2012 regarding ‘Setting up of NEAMA’	15
VII. USQ No. 4997 dated 07.05.2012 regarding ‘Clearances to Dams on River’	17
VIII. USQ No. 74 dated 05.08.2013 regarding ‘Protection of Environment in Himalayan Region’	18
IX. SQ No. 224 dated 23.07.2014 regarding ‘Impact of Hydro Power Projects on Environment’	20
X. USQ No. 1983 dated 23.07.2014 regarding ‘Uttarakhand Calamity’	25
XI. USQ No. 2859 dated 30.07.2014 regarding ‘National Board of Wildlife’	27

(ii)

	PAGE
XII. USQ No. 2258 dated 10.03.2015 regarding 'National Board for Wildlife'	29
XIII. USQ No. 516 dated 26.11.2014 regarding 'Tiger Protection Force'	31
XIV. USQ No. 1379 dated 03.03.2015 regarding 'Special Tiger Protection Force'	32
XV. Extracts from Manual of Practice & Procedure in the Government of India, Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, New Delhi	35

ANNEXURES

I. Minutes of the Sitting of the Committee held on 15 February, 2016	39
II. Minutes of the Sitting of the Committee held on 14 December, 2016	46

COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES*
(2016-2017)

Dr. Ramesh Pokhriyal "Nishank" — *Chairperson*

MEMBERS

2. Shri Rajendra Agrawal
3. Shri E. Ahamed
4. Shri Anto Antony
5. Shri Tariq Anwar
6. Prof. (Dr.) Sugata Bose
7. Shri Naranbhai Bhikhabhai Kachhadiya
8. Shri Bahadur Singh Koli
9. Shri Prahlad Singh Patel
10. Shri A.T. Nana Patil
11. Shri C.R. Patil
12. Shri Sunil Kumar Singh
13. Shri Taslimuddin
14. Shri K.C. Venugopal
15. Shri S.R. Vijay Kumar

SECRETARIAT

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|----|-------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| 1. | Shri R.S. Kambo | — | <i>Additional Secretary</i> |
| 2. | Shri J.M. Baisakh | — | <i>Director</i> |
| 3. | Shri S.L. Singh | — | <i>Deputy Secretary</i> |

*The Committee has been re-constituted *w.e.f.* 01 September, 2016 *Vide* Para No. 4075 of Lok Sabha Bulletin Part-II, dated 05 September, 2016.

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* The Committee has been re-constituted w.e.f. 01 September, 2015 *Vide* Para No. 2348 of Lok Sabha Bulletin Part-II, dated 31 August, 2015.

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairperson of the Committee on Government Assurances, (2016-2017), having been authorized by the Committee to submit the Report on their behalf, present this Forty-Second Report (16th Lok Sabha) of the Committee on Government Assurances.

2. The Committee (2015-2016) at their sitting held on 15 February, 2016 took oral evidence of the representatives of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change regarding pending Assurances from 2nd Session of 15th Lok Sabha to 4th Session of 16th Lok Sabha.

3. At their sitting held on 14 December, 2016, the Committee (2016-2017) considered and adopted their Forty-Second Report.

4. The Minutes of the aforesaid sittings of the Committee form parts of this Report.

5. For facility of reference and convenience, the Observations and Recommendations of the Committee have been printed in bold letters in the Report.

NEW DELHI;
14 December, 2016
23 Agra Hayana, 1938 (Saka)

DR. RAMESH POKHRIYAL "NISHANK"
Chairperson,
Committee on Government Assurances.

REPORT

I. Introductory

The Committee on Government Assurances scrutinize the Assurances, promises, undertakings etc., given by the Ministers from time to time on the floor of the House and report the extent to which such Assurances, promises, undertakings have been implemented. Once an Assurance has been given on the floor of the House, the same is required to be implemented within a period of three months. The Ministries/Departments of Government of India are under obligation to seek extension of time required beyond the prescribed period for fulfillment of the Assurance. Where a Ministry/Department are unable to implement an Assurance, that Ministry/Department are bound to request the Committee for dropping it. The Committee consider such requests and approve dropping, in case, they are convinced that grounds cited are justified. The Committee also examine whether the implementation of Assurances has taken place within the minimum time necessary for the purpose and the extent to which the Assurances have been implemented.

2. The Committee on Government Assurances (2009-10) took a policy decision to call the representatives of the various Ministries/Departments of the Government of India, in a phased manner, to review the pending Assurances, examine the reasons for pendency and analyze operation of the system prescribed in Ministries/Departments for dealing with Assurances. The Committee also decided to consider the quality of Assurances implemented by the Government.

3. The Committee on Government Assurances (2014-2015) decided to follow the well established and time tested procedure of calling the representatives of the Ministries/Departments of Government of India in a phased manner and review the pending Assurances. The Committee took a step further and decided to call the representatives of the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs also as all the Assurances are implemented through them.

4. In pursuance of the *ibid* decision, the Committee on Government Assurances (2015-2016) called the representatives of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and also the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs to examine the followings 14 pending Assurances (Appendices I to XIV) pertaining to the Ministry at their sitting held on 15 February, 2016:—

Sl. No.	SQ/USQ No. dated	Subject
1	2	3
1.	USQ No.672 dated 08.07.2009	Setting up of National Environment Protection Authority (Appendix-I)

1	2	3
2.	SQ No.90 dated 25.11.2009	National Environment Protection Authority (Appendix-II)
3.	USQ No. 3595 dated 01.12.2010	Setting up of NEPA (Appendix-III)
4.	USQ No. 1317 dated 08.08.2011	NEAMA (Appendix-IV)
5.	USQ No. 2925 dated 12.12.2011	Establishment of NEAMA (Appendix-V)
6.	USQ No. 1951 dated 26.03.2012	Setting up of NEAMA (Appendix-VI)
7.	USQ No. 4997 dated 07.05.2012	Clearances to Dams on River (Appendix-VII)
8.	USQ No. 74 dated 05.08.2013	Protection of Environment in Himalayan Region (Appendix-VIII)
9.	SQ No. 224 dated 23.07.2014 (Shri Jyotiraditya Madhavrao Scindia, M.P.)	Impact of Hydro Power Projects on Environment (Appendix-IX)
10.	USQ No. 1983 dated 23.07.2014	Uttarakhand Calamity (Appendix-X)
11.	USQ No. 2859 dated 30.07.2014	National Board of Wildlife (Appendix-XI)
12.	USQ No. 2258 dated 10.03.2015	National Board of Wildlife (Appendix-XII)
13.	USQ No. 516 dated 26.11.2014	Tiger Protection Force (Appendix-XIII)
14.	USQ No.1379 dated 03.03.2015	Special Tiger Protection Force (Appendix-XIV)

5. The Extracts from Manual of Practice and Procedure in the Government of India, Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs laying guidelines on the definition of an

Assurance, the time limit for its fulfillment, dropping/deletion and extension, the procedure for fulfillment etc., besides maintenance of Register of Assurances and periodical reviews to minimize delays in implementation of the Assurances are reproduced at Appendix-XV.

6. During oral evidence, the Committee drew the attention of the representatives of the Ministry to the inordinate delay in the fulfillment of the above 14 Assurances and enquired about the system of implementing/reviewing Assurances being followed in the Ministry, compliance with the instructions contained in the Manual of Practice and Procedure of the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs as well as coordination with that Ministry for expeditious/timely implementation of the pending Assurances. The Special Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change in his deposition before the Committee stated during evidence as under:—

"Our 133 Assurances are pending. The Secretary at his level takes meeting twice a month with senior officers regarding pending Assurances, other pending issues, VIP issues, Rules and Laws and Cabinet Notes. I am telling you that from the last two years, the Minister almost regularly calls us and instructs to ensure that nothing is left pending but still 133 Assurances have remained pending. There are reasons behind this. If you see the 14 Assurances, we could not resolve them even after best efforts. In most of the questions the matter is in progress. You have rightly said that our Ministry is Multi Disiplinary cross cutting Ministry and most of the work is regulating work in nature.....As our work is regulatory in nature so we have to depend on different other Ministries, different offices for our projects but we try to be proactive to resolve on time the pending questions or other pending things."

7. Subsequently, Full Implementation Reports of three Assurances mentioned at Sl. Nos. 8, 11 and 12 and part Implementation Report of one Assurance mentioned at S.No.13 were laid on the Table of the House on 09.03.2016 and 04.05.2016 respectively.

Observations/Recommendations

8. The Committee are constrained to note that as many as 14 Assurances of the Ministry given during the period from the year 2009 to 2015 are pending even after lapse of time ranging from 7 years to 1 year and 7 months. Out of these 14 pending Assurances, the Assurances mentioned at Sl. Nos. 1 and 2 are pending for more than seven years, Assurance at S.No. 3 above is pending for about six years and those at Sl. Nos. 4 and 5 are pending for about five years. Further, the Assurances mentioned at Sl. Nos. 11 and 12 were implemented/fulfilled after delays ranging from one to two years. The Special Secretary of the Ministry during oral evidence deposed before the Committee that in the last 2 years the pending Assurances are not only reviewed by the

Senior Officers but also at the Minister level regularly. However, the tardy implementation of the Assurances tells a different story altogether. The inordinate delays in fulfillment of the Assurances indicates that there is need to further streamline the follow up action once an Assurance has been made on the floor of the House. The review of the pending Assurances by the Committee also reveals that the existing mechanism put in place by the Ministry for fulfilling the Assurances especially those involving other Ministries/Departments and stakeholders is not that effective and needs to be strengthened. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the existing mechanism/system in the Ministry should be revamped and streamlined with a view to avoid delay in fulfillment of Assurances and made accountable for any delays and lapses in this regard. The Committee further observe that lack of proper co-ordination between the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, which is the nodal Ministry for laying of Implementation Reports of the pending Assurance on the Table of the House causing delay in the fulfillment of most of the Assurances. The Committee, therefore, desire that the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change should adopt a proactive approach and enhance the level of coordination with other Ministries/Departments particularly with the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs for early/timely implementation of all the pending Assurances as well as the Assurances to be made in future. In view of the practical difficulties being faced by the Ministry in the fulfillment of Assurances wherein other Ministries/Departments/offices are involved, the Committee opine that such cases need to be monitored/reviewed at higher levels.

II. Review of Pending Assurances

9. In the succeeding paragraphs, the Committee deal with some of the important pending Assurances pertaining to the Ministry:—

- A. Setting up of National Environment Protection Authority (NEPA) and National Environment Assessment and Monitoring Authority (NEAMA):
 - (i) USQ No. 672 dated 08.07.2009 regarding "Setting up of National Environment Protection Authority" (Appendix-I)
 - (ii) SQ No. 90 dated 25.11.2009 regarding "National Environment Protection Authority" (Appendix-II)
 - (iii) USQ No. 3595 dated 01.12.2010 regarding "Setting up of NEPA" (Appendix-III)
 - (iv) USQ No. 1317 dated 08.08.2011 regarding "NEAMA" (Appendix-IV)

(v) USQ No. 2925 dated 12.12.2011 regarding "Establishment of NEAMA" (Appendix-V)

(vi) USQ No. 1951 dated 26.03.2012 regarding "Setting up of NEAMA" (Appendix-VI)

10. In reply to above Questions at Sl. Nos. (i) to (iii) regarding 'Setting up of National Environment Protection Authority (*Appendix-I to III*)', it was stated that a proposal to set up a National Environment Protection Authority to strengthen enforcement and monitoring of compliance of environmental status and to improve environmental planning and management was in a conceptual stage. The details and time schedule for setting up of the Authority are yet to be formulated. Further, the Ministry in reply to Questions at Sl. Nos (iv) to (vi) stated that they propose to establish a National Environment Assessment and Monitoring Authority (NEAMA) with domain expertise, technological finesse and field outreach in order to strengthen and professionalize the regimes of environment impact assessment and coastal zone management under Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. The details and the time schedule for setting up the Authority had not been finalised.

11. On being asked about the implementation of above pending Assurances, the Special Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change in evidence stated:—

"In 2007 a Parliamentary Steering Committee for the Eleventh Five Year Plan had recommended for formation of an agency on the lines of the Environment Protection Agency of the United States of America (USA) for enforcement of environmental laws. The Ministry, accordingly, initiated the process of forming National Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA). In 2009, there was consultation with the various Ministers of Forests Departments of all the States. In 2010, IIT Delhi further studied the concept and advised the Ministry to name the said agency as National Environment Assessment & Monitoring Authority (NEAMA). Further, in 2011, consequent upon the LAFARGE judgment, the Supreme Court observed that there must be an authority which is independent of the Ministry for looking into environmental and forest related issues."

12. Since the Assurance and consultation thereon pertain to the year 2009, the Committee enquired about the inability of the Ministry to set up the Authority in that year itself. In reply, the Special Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change briefed the Committee during evidence, as under:—

"Earlier, there was a thought that the law making task in the matter would be undertaken by the Ministry while monitoring, regulation and enforcement of the same would be done by NEPA and adjudicatory functions would be performed by the NGT. Later it was thought to make the Indian body in this

regard to have a broader mandate including the functions of project appraisal, enforcement and monitoring on the lines of the similar American agency. Further to this development NEPA was transformed into NEAMA. Consequent upon the Supreme Court judgement, the matter had gone to the Cabinet which recommended for wider consultation in the matter because the reach of this authority would also be in various other Ministries. In view of the present situation that the proposal has yet not been given the final shape and all the three aspects i.e. NEPA, NEAMA and Regulatory Authority are getting involved."

13. On being asked whether there is any draft prepared for NEAMA, the Special Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change deposed during evidence as under:—

"It is uploaded on site for consultation".

Observations/Recommendations

14. The Committee note that six important Assurances on the subject regarding "Setting up of National Environment Protection Authority" and "Setting up of NEAMA" are still pending though the first Assurance was given in the year 2009. The Committee have been informed that a Parliamentary Steering Committee for the Eleventh Five Year Plan had recommended for formation of an agency on the lines of the Environment Protection Agency of the United States of America for enforcement of environmental Laws in the year 2007 itself. The Ministry, accordingly, initiated the process of forming National Environmental Protection Agency. In the year 2009, there was consultation with the Ministers of Forest Departments of all the States and in 2010. IIT Delhi further studied the concept and advised the Ministry to name the said agency as National Environment Assessment & Monitoring Authority (NEAMA). Further, in 2011, consequent upon the LAFARGE judgment, the Supreme Court observed that there must be an authority which is independent of the Ministry for looking into environmental and forest related issues. In the first instance the law making task in the matter was to be taken over by the Ministry while monitoring etc. was left for NGT but later it was decided to entrust this Agency with a broader mandate including the functions of project appraisal etc. Thereafter, NEPA was transformed into NEAMA and finally the matter was referred to the Cabinet which in turn recommended for wider consultation in the matter and as a result the proposal could not be given any concrete shape. The Committee take note of the fact that the issue is a complex one. The efforts made by the Ministry so far have not led to any identified course of action to fulfill the intended objective. The Committee can hardly overemphasize the significance and need for formulation of policy to put in place an Authority to protect and nourish the environment, which is witnessing varied challenges across the globe. The Committee earnestly desire the Ministry to chalk out an action plan to implement the Assurance without further delay. The Committee also note that the Ministry

have not submitted any Interim/Part Implementation Report till date. The Committee, therefore, direct the Ministry to forward a Part Implementation Report about the steps taken so far to fulfill the Assurances to the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs for being laid on the Table of the House without any further delay.

B. Special Tiger Protection Force

- (i) USQ No. 516 dated 26.11.2014 regarding "Tiger Protection Force" (Appendix XIII)
- (ii) USQ No. 1379 dated 3.3.2015 regarding "Special Tiger Protection Force " (Appendix XIV)

15. In reply to USQ No. 516 dated 26.11.2014 regarding Tiger Protection Force (Appendix - XIII), it was *inter-alia* stated that the funding support for Special Tiger Protection Force, has been sought by the State for Sariska Tiger Reserve during the current financial year. The State has been advised for a detailed proposal *vis-a-vis* the guidelines issued in the regard. Further, in reply to USQ No. 1379 dated 03.03.2015, it was stated that, in-principle approval has been accorded for raising, arming and deploying the Special Tiger Protection Force in Nawegoan-Nagzira and Melghat (Maharashtra), Kawal and Amrabad (Telangana) Tiger Reserves, Process is underway for rest of the States.

16. In their Status Note, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change informed the Committee in respect of Assurance given in reply to USQ No. 516 dated 26.11.2014 as under:—

"Further Extension upto 26.2.2016 has been sought for want of detailed report from the State Government. State Government is yet to submit duly signed Memorandum of Understanding in this regard".

17. Similarly, as regards USQ No. 1379 dated 03.03.2015, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change informed the Committee as under:—

"Further Extension upto 3.6.2016 has been sought owing to non-compliance in this regard so far by the State Government of Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Assam, Tamil Nadu, Action has to be taken by the States. The process is time taking as it involves recruitment and training".

18. With regard to the implementation of the above Assurances, the Special Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change apprised the Committee during oral evidence, as under:—

"Owing to non-compliance by the respective State Government, the Assurances could not be fulfilled. The process is time consuming since it involves recruitment and training of the forces. The State Governments have been requested to ensure the creation of the Tiger Protection Force and thirteen of the most sensitive Tigers Reserves were selected for the

creation of this Tiger Protection Force. Out of these, the Force has already been created in four Tiger Reserves and consultation is going on with the respective State Governments for creation of the Force in the remaining nine Tiger Reserves."

19. When the Committee specifically enquired as to how the Assurance would be treated as fulfilled when only Tiger force have been created in only 4 out of 13 Tiger Reserves, the Special Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change explained during evidence, as under:—

"We request that we are working with States..... the Force is to be recruited by the concerned States".

Observations/Recommendations

20. The Committee note that two important Assurances regarding a critical subject on Special Tiger Protection Force which is essential for protection of Tiger and other wild life in the country, are pending from the years 2014 and 2015 respectively. As regards their implementation, the Committee have been informed that action for the creation of the Force is to be taken by the State Governments concerned and response is awaited from these State Governments on the subject. Considering that the Central Ministry is primarily responsible for implementing the Assurance given on the floor of the House, they cannot absolve the same and need to pursue the matter with States for expeditious creation of Special Tiger Protection Force.

III. Implementation Reports

21. As per the Statements of the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, Implementation Reports in respect of the Assurances given in reply to following SQs/USQs have since been laid on the Table of the House on the dates as mentioned against each:—

Sl. No. 8	USQ No. 74 dated 05.08.2013	04.05.2016
Sl. No. 11	USQ No. 2859 dated 30.07.2014	09.03.2016
Sl. No. 12	USQ No. 2258 dated 10.03.2015	09.03.2016
Sl. No. 13	USQ No. 516 dated 26.11.2014 (Partly)	04.05.2016

NEW DELHI;
14 December, 2016
23 Agraahayana, 1938 (*Saka*)

DR. RAMESH POKHRIYAL "NISHANK"
Chairperson,
Committee on Government Assurances.

APPENDIX I

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS

LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 672

ANSWERED ON 08.07.09

Setting up of National Environment Protection Authority

672. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to set up a National Environment Protection Authority;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the time by which the Authority is likely to be set up?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (c) A proposal to set up a National Environment Protection Authority to strengthen enforcement and monitoring of compliance of environmental statutes and to improve environmental planning and management is in a conceptual stage. The details and time schedule for setting up of the Authority are yet to be formalized.

APPENDIX II

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 90
ANSWERED ON 25.11.2009

National Environment Protection Authority

*90. SHRI DHRUVA NARAYANA:
SHRI S.R. JEYADURAI:

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

- (a) whether a Conference of the State Ministers of Environment and Forests was held recently in Delhi;
- (b) if so, the issues discussed therein and the outcome thereof;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to set up a National Environment Protection Authority (NEPA) for grant of environmental clearances and enforce environmental laws and standards;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether some of the State Governments have objected to the setting up of such a body;
- (f) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (g) whether the Government also proposes to modernize and revamp the environmental clearances and regulatory compliance; and
- (h) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (h) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (h) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 90 FOR 25.11.2009 REGARDING NATIONAL ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AUTHORITY RAISED BY SHRI DHRUVA NARAYANA AND SHRI S.R. JEYADURAI

(a) Yes, Sir. The Conference of State Ministers of Environment and Forests was held in New Delhi on 18.8.2009.

(b) The issues discussed during the Conference were centered around 6 agenda items. The agenda items related to: (i) Monitoring compliance with environmental and forestry related laws and regulations and the road map for institution-building; (ii) Improving our approach to river cleaning using innovative models and enhanced coordination between Centre, State and Local Bodies; (iii) Strategies for increasing forest cover and enhancing synergies between 'Green India Mission', National Afforestation Programme and CAMPA funds; (iv) Strengthening of State Forest Departments by Modernisation, Infrastructure development & Capacity building of forest officials; (v) Protection of Forests in the context of the implementation of the "The Scheduled Tribes and other Traditional Forest Dwellers" (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006; (vi) Wildlife management including tiger conservation and issues related to man-animal conflict.

(c) & (d) The Government is considering setting up of a National Environment Protection Authority (NEPA) and the proposal is in a conceptual stage. The configuration and scope of the proposed NEPA is yet to be finalised. A discussion paper has been circulated and has also been uploaded in the Ministry's website for comments.

(e) & (f) The Government of Madhya Pradesh has responded that the establishment of a new body has to be viewed carefully in the context of the existence of State Pollution Control Boards and the Central Pollution Control Board as the constitution of NEPA may cause intervention in the rights of the States and may create dispute for smooth environmental governance.

(g) & (h) This Ministry had issued a draft notification dated 19.1.2009 to amend the Environment impact Assessment Notification, 2006 inviting comments. The comments received have been examined by a Committee whose recommendations have been accepted by the Ministry. The recommendations *inter-alia* include exemption of bio-mass based power plants up to 15 MW, and retaining the threshold limit of 20,000 sq.m. for construction projects.

APPENDIX III

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS

LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3595

ANSWERED ON 1.12.2010

Setting up of NEPA

3595. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE:

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to set up National Environmental Protection Authority (NEPA);
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the likely function of the Authority; and
- (c) the time by which it is likely to be set up?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (c) A proposal to set up a National Environment Protection Authority (NEPA) or a National Environment Assessment and Monitoring Authority (NEAMA) to strengthen enforcement and monitoring of compliance of environmental statutes and to improve environmental planning and management with a focus on environmental impact assessment and coastal zone management is in a conceptual stage. The details and time schedule for setting up of the Authority are yet to be formalised.

APPENDIX IV

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS

LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1317

ANSWERED ON 08.8.2011

NEAMA

1317. SHRIASADUDDIN OWAISI:
SHRI GHANSHYAM ANURAGI:
DR. KRUPARANI KILLI:

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

- (a) whether the Government has any proposal to set up a National Environmental Appraisal and Monitoring Authority (NEAMA) to bring in institutional reforms and improve environmental governance in the country;
- (b) if so, the details and the salient features thereof; and
- (c) the time by which it is likely to be set up in the country?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) to (c) The Ministry proposes to establish a National Environment Assessment and Monitoring Authority (NEAMA) with domain expertise, technological finesse and field outreach in order to strengthen and professionalize the regimes of environment impact assessment and coastal zone management under Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. The details and the time schedule have not yet been finalised.

APPENDIX V

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS

LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2925

ANSWERED ON 12.12.2011

Establishment of NEAMA

2925. SHRI BRIJBHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH:

DR. KRUPARANI KILLI:

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to establish a National Environment Assessment and Monitoring Authority (NEAMA) in the country;

(b) if so, the initiatives taken in this regard and the time schedule fixed for that purpose;

(c) whether the Government also proposes any engagement with the World Bank or any other similar agency towards establishment of NEAMA; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) and (b) The Ministry proposes to establish a National Environment Assessment and Monitoring Authority (NEAMA) with domain expertise, technological finesse and field outreach in order to strengthen and professionalize the regimes of environment impact assessment and coastal zone management under Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. The details and the time schedule for setting up the Authority have not yet been finalised.

(c) and (d) No, Sir.

APPENDIX VI

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS

LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1951

ANSWERED ON 26.3.2012

Setting up of NEAMA

1951. SHRI BRIJBHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH:
SHRIMATI PRIYA DUTT:
SHRI K.C. SINGH 'BABA':

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to constitute a National Environmental Appraisal and Monitoring Authority (NEAMA) in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the objective behind constituting the aforesaid authority;
- (c) the time by which it is likely to be setup in the country;
- (d) whether the Government has any plan to tackle the issue of Deforestation/ Development in the country;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) to (c) The Ministry proposes to establish a National Environment Assessment and Monitoring Authority (NEAMA) with domain expertise, technological finesse and field outreach in order to strengthen and professionalize the regimes of environment impact assessment and coastal zone management under Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. The details and the time schedule for setting up the Authority have not yet been finalised.

(d) to (f) The Government is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme of National Afforestation Programme (NAP) for regeneration of degraded forests and adjoining areas in the country. The Scheme is implemented through decentralised mechanism of State Forest Development Agency (SFDA) at State level, Forest Development Agency (FDA) at Forest Division level and Joint Forest

Management Committee (JFMCs) at village level. As on 29.2.2012, 800 FDA projects have been approved in 28 States in the country to treat an area of 18.69 lakhs ha. since inception of the Scheme in 2002.

APPENDIX VII

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS

LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4997

ANSWERED ON 07.05.2012

Clearances to Dams on River

4997. SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR:
SHRI B.B. PATIL:
SHRI YASHVIR SINGH:
SHRI EKNATH M. GAIKWAD:
SHRI ANAND PRAKASH PARANJPE:

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

- (a) whether the report submitted by Wildlife Institute of India (WII) has recommended the abandoning of the project of setting up of dams on the Alaknanda and Bhagirathi rivers in the State of the Uttarakhand;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) to (c) The report submitted by the Wildlife Institute of India recommended certain additional regulating measures to compensate or mitigate direct impacts and indirect impacts of 17 already commissioned hydro power projects and 14 under-construction hydro power projects in Alaknanda and Bhagirathi basins. The report submitted by the Wildlife Institute of India has however, reported that out of the total of 39 additional proposed hydro power projects considered in the Cumulative Environmental Impact Assessment (CEIA) in Alaknanda and Bhagirathi Basins, 24 projects may significantly impact the biodiversity values in the two sub-basins. The said report is presently under examination of the Central Government.

APPENDIX VIII

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 74
ANSWERED ON 05.8.2013

Protection of Environment in Himalayan Region

74. SHRI ANANTKUMAR HEGDE:
DR. MAHENDRASINH P. CHAUHAN:
SHRIMATI J. HELEN DAVIDSON:
SHRI ARJUN RAY:
SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR:
SHRI MITHILESH KUMAR:
SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR:

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

- (a) whether the Government has made a survey on the environmental situations in the hilly regions particularly in the States like Uttarakhand keeping in view the recently occurred disastrous flood, heavy rain, cloud burst and land slides;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any environmental imbalance has been detected in that region which may be one of the reasons for the disaster;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. No specific survey has been done by the Ministry of Environment and Forests on the environmental situations in the hilly regions particularly in the States like Uttarakhand keeping in view the recently occurred disastrous flood, heavy rain, cloud burst and land slides;

(c), (d) and (e) Though no survey has been undertaken post disaster, however, to regulate the flow affected due to construction of dams in upper reaches of river Ganga, two studies on assessment of cumulative impacts of dams in Bhagirathi and Alaknanda Basins have been carried out by IIT Roorkee and Wildlife Institute

of India. To review these reports alongwith other issues related to river Ganga, the Ministry has constituted an Inter-Ministerial Group (IMG) under the chairmanship of Shri B.K. Chaturvedi, Member Planning Commission. The group has recently submitted its report *inter-alia* suggesting environmental flow requirements for various stretches of Bhagirathi, Alaknanda and other tributaries of river Ganga. It has also suggested that remedial action pending the Ganga Basin Management Plan to be submitted by the consortium of IITs. Recommendations of Inter-Ministerial Group are under consideration of the Government.

APPENDIX IX

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 224

ANSWERED ON 23.07.2014

Impact of Hydro Power Projects on Environment

*224. MD. BADARUDDOZA KHAN:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has made any assessment of the cumulative impact of existing/under-construction hydro power projects on the environment;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any directive has also been issued to the Government by Supreme Court in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken by the Government in this regard so far?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR): (a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) TO (E) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 224 ON "IMPACT OF HYDRO POWER PROJECTS ON ENVIRONMENT" RAISED BY SHRI MD. BADARUDDOZA KHAN TO BE ANSWERED ON WEDNESDAY, THE 23RD JULY, 2014.

(a) and (b) Indian Institute of Technology, Roorkee, Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun and an Inter-Ministerial Group headed by Shri B.K. Chaturvedi have examined cumulative impact of hydropower projects on aquatic biodiversity, river ecology and environmental flow in Alaknanda & Bhagirathi rivers in the Himalayas. Simultaneously, carrying capacity studies in 7 river basins in Arunachal Pradesh, Teesta river basin in States of Sikkim & West Bengal, Chenab and Satluj river basins in Himachal Pradesh have been undertaken. These studies primarily examined the feasibility of development of hydropower in an environmentally sustainable manner.

(c) to (e) The Hon'ble Supreme Court *vide* Judgment dated 13.8.2013, directed Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF & CC) to constitute

an Expert Body (EB) to make a detailed study as to whether Hydroelectric power projects, existing and under construction, have caused environmental degradation and if so to what extent, and also whether such projects have contributed to the tragedy which occurred in the month of June, 2013 in Uttarakhand. The direction also is to examine the impact of the proposed 24 hydropower projects on the biodiversity in Alaknanda and Bhagirathi River Basins.

Accordingly, MoEF & CC constituted an Expert Body (EB) and appointed Dr. Ravi Chopra as the Chairman along with 15 other members to undertake the study as directed by Supreme Court. The Expert Body submitted its report to MoEF & CC on 16.04.2014. Two members of the committee representing the Central Water Commission (CWC) & Central Electricity Authority (CEA) submitted a separate report with divergent views. These two reports were submitted to Hon'ble Supreme Court. On 7.5.2014, Hon'ble Supreme Court directed Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change to examine both the reports and submit before Court a firm and appropriate proposal, Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change has referred both these reports to a Consortium of IITs and a final view would be submitted to the Court in due course.

SHRI MD. BADARUDDOZA KHAN (MURSHIDABAD): Madam, Speaker, I have gone through the answer given by the hon. Minister and some reports. But I am sorry to say that I am not satisfied with the answer and so I have to say something about it.

So far as hydro electric projects are concerned in Uttarakhand and some other States in the Himalayan range, it is seen in the DMMC report that 13 districts in the State of Uttarakhand are now under seismic zone IV and V. Despite this, several dams and roads have been constructed. Again, it has been mentioned that the State of Uttarakhand is vulnerable to earthquake, hail storms, landslides, cloud bursts and avalanches. Then, the Supreme Court in 2013 directed the Ministry to constitute an expert committee to assess whether on-going and under construction hydro electric power projects have contributed to the environmental degradation and if so, in what context. The Supreme Court also directed the Ministry not to grant any further environmental clearances for any hydro electric power project.

Then came the report of the Chopra Committee. The Chopra Committee suggested establishment of micro hydel projects and some other projects which are not relevant to my question. My question is, in spite of all these reports and directives, why did the Chopra Committee dilute the directives of the Supreme Court and also the report of the DMMC and suggested for setting up of micro hydel power project in these areas? It is also remarkable that the Chopra Committee was not unanimous in their recommendations. Two of its Members submitted other reports. I would like to know whether there was any political pressure brought on the Committee, or any vested interest was behind this.

श्री प्रकाश जावड़ेकर: महोदया, पहले तो मैं यह बताऊंगा कि यह एक बहुत संवेदनशील और महत्वपूर्ण मुद्दा है कि हाइड्रो पावर प्रोजेक्ट लगाने चाहिए, क्योंकि दैट इज दी क्लीनर एनर्जी, क्योंकि नहीं तो कोयले से बिजली पैदा करेंगे या पानी से पैदा करेंगे। पानी से करना ज्यादा क्लीनर एनर्जी पाथ है, लेकिन उसके करने से नदी पर क्या संकट आता है और बाकी इकोलॉजी पर क्या परिणाम होता है, खासकर उत्तराखंड में, जिसका आपने जिक्र किया।

इसलिए जब उत्तराखंड की ट्रेजेडी हुई तो सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने जो आदेश दिया, उसमें रवि चोपड़ा कमेटी बनाई गई। इसमें दो तरह की रिपोर्ट आई। क्योंकि जो दो लोगों ने डाइवर्जेंट व्यू दिये, वे भी सैन्ट्रल वाटर कमीशन और सेन्ट्रल इलैक्ट्रिसिटी अथॉरिटी के लोग थे। दो महत्वपूर्ण मुद्दे थे। एक सच्चाई है कि हरेक प्रोजेक्ट का निश्चित अध्ययन होना चाहिए। अध्ययन करते हुए there are five types of Committees. एक तो आईआईटी रुड़की की स्टडी हुई 2010 में। वाइल्डलाइफ इंस्टीट्यूट की स्टडी हुई 2010 में। आईआईटी कंसोर्टियम स्टडी भी उसी साल शुरू हुई। इंटर मिनिस्टीरियल ग्रुप जो बी०के० चतुर्वेदी कमेटी के नाम से जाना जाता है, वह 2012 में हुआ। फिर सुप्रीम कोर्ट के आदेश से यह पांचवीं कमेटी बनी। अब इसमें दो डाइवर्जेंट व्यू आने के कारण फिर से आईआईटी कंसोर्टियम को बताया है कि इस पर आप एक बार फाइनली बता दें। The issue is this. I can understand the sensitivity of the problem and the question raised by the hon. Member. The finding of all the Committees is one, that is, implementation and compliance are important. Catchment area treatment and compensatory afforestation, ये दो चीजें हैं जो ठीक तरह से नहीं होती हैं। मैं पानी के आंदोलन का कार्यकर्ता हूँ। I can tell you that the catchment area treatment is very important for the project to get fructified, जिस उद्देश्य से वह बनाया गया है। इसलिए इस पर ज्यादा ध्यान दिया जाएगा।

SHRI MD. BADARUDDOZA KHAN (MURSHIDABAD): Madam, I have some other questions to put.

In each State, there are some agencies like the State Disaster Management Authority and the Meteorological Department. There are many Committees which are working separately and in isolation. It causes increase in death toll.

Now, I want to know whether the Government of India has any plan to tie up all such agencies under one umbrella; if not, what are the reasons thereof?

SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: This is actually a suggestion which is noted. The issue is not about bringing all the agencies under one roof. All agencies have a different mandate and they work under their mandate. Their advice is taken and necessary action will be taken.

डॉ० रमेश पोखरियाल निशंक (हरिद्वार): अध्यक्ष महोदया, मैं आपके माध्यम से माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूँ कि उत्तराखंड और हिमालय राज्यों में जो भीषण दैवीय आपदाएं आती हैं, जिनमें भूकम्प, भूस्खलन, अतिवर्षा और बादलों का फटना है, क्या ये बड़े बांध और बड़ी परियोजनाओं को बनाए जाने का पर्यावरणीय प्रतिकूल प्रभाव है, यदि हां, तो उसका ब्यौरा क्या है और उसका समाधान क्या है? यदि नहीं, तो क्या हिमालय क्षेत्र को बचाए रखने के लिए इस पर कोई अध्ययन होगा, सरकार कोई ठोस रणनीति बनाएगी, और वह कब तक बनाएगी?

श्री प्रकाश जावड़ेकर: सम्माननीय सदस्य उत्तराखंड के मुख्य मंत्री भी थे, तो उनको पता है। He knows the issue. सवाल यह है कि उत्तराखंड की ट्रेजेडी के बाद बहुत सारे विषय पैदा हुए, उत्पन्न हुए, उन पर चर्चा हुई। उसके लिए सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने जो आदेश दिया था, कमेटी का नतीजा यह है कि उत्तराखंड ट्रेजेडी के लिए यह बांध जिम्मेदार नहीं है, बल्कि टिहरी का बांध न होता और दूसरा श्रीनगर का बांध नहीं होता तो बहुत ज्यादा नुकसान भी हो सकता था, यह भी एक वास्तविकता है। लेकिन एक सच्चाई है कि गंगा का जो इको-सैसिटिव ज़ोन है और खासकर गंगोत्री से 170 किलोमीटर तक का जो हिस्सा था, उसके बारे में पहले भी निर्णय हुआ है और इसके बारे में यह सरकार भी उतनी ही संवेदनशील है। लेकिन जैसे मैंने कहा कि Cleaner energy path is hydro, but that does not mean कि कुछ भी इकोलॉजी पर ध्यान न देते हुए हाइड्रो चलाओ। यह हम नहीं सोचते।

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA (GUNA): Hon. Speaker, thank you. The Minister's comment is very well taken that hydro is a much cleaner form of energy. India's energy mix has also fallen from 40 per cent dependency on hydro to 17 per cent today. It is very important to have a diversified portfolio. The fact is that today hydro projects are used as Base Load Stations as opposed to Peaker Stations which are used across the world. Arunachal Pradesh and the North Eastern region present a gold mine with regard to hydro project potential in India at almost 100 KVs.

There was an inter-Ministerial dialogue to ensure that EAC approval is given to the first project on the river basin and after that an environmental assessment study is also done. Many projects of NHPC and other companies are still being held, like the Subansri and Dibang. My question to the Minister very respectfully is whether there are any thoughts to progress this forward so that at least hydro development in this country can start.

श्री प्रकाश जावड़ेकर: महोदया, माननीय सदस्य स्वयं ऊर्जा मंत्री थे और उन्हें यह पता है कि अरुणाचल में पारे-डिकरॉंग हाइड्रो इलेक्ट्रिक पावर, डेमवे (लोवर एचएपी), हुतांग एचएपी, तवांग एचएपी, तवांग स्टेज टू, टाटो-2, एनजेसी, डिबिन एचएपी, गोनगरी एचएपी और नाफ्रा एचएपी की परमीशन वर्ष 2013 तक दी गई हैं जब उत्तराखंड की ट्रेजेडी हुई तो सभी एचएपी के ऊपर एक विवाद पैदा हुआ। असम में भी एक मुद्दा उठा। इसकी संवेदनशीलता को देखते हुए जो बहुत सारे तैयार हुए और इसलिए बिचोम रिवर बेसिन, लोहित रिवर बेसिन, सुबानसिरी रिवर बेसिन, सियांग रिवर बेसिन, कामिंग और दिबांग रिवर बेसिन, तवांग रिवर बेसिन और तिस्ता रिवर बेसिन सिक्किम और प. बंगाल का हिस्सा है। लेकिन इन सभी बेसिन्स का जो पोटेंशियल है वह बहुत है। इकोलॉजी को नुकसान न पहुंचाते हुए हम कैसे ज्यादा से ज्यादा इसका उपयोग कर सकते हैं, इसी दृष्टि से इन सब विषयों को दोबारा से रिव्यू किया जा रहा है।

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA (GUNA): My question is very pointed one. Is the Government going to give the first project on the basin approval and then make sure that those projects start off? That was what was decided in a Cabinet meeting as well. So, I would just like reiteration from the Minister whether that policy is still going to be followed so that the first project on the basin can get the approval.

SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: The same policy is being continued.

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (CUTTACK): Hon. Speaker, the question relates to impact of hydro power projects on environment. Definitely it is not just confined to the Himalayan region. So my question is whether it is true that the Ministry of Environment and Forests has granted environmental clearance to the Polavaram project on 25th October, 2005 basing on a design flood estimation of 36 lakh causes though in the meanwhile the design flood estimation of the project has been revised by the CWC to about 50 lakh causes. Can one term such an environmental clearance valid when the design flood estimation was only 36 lakh causes? Is it not true that the environmental clearance was given in September, 006 without public hearing in project-affected areas, like Odisha? Has any forest land in Odisha been affected due to the construction of protective embankments of the Polavaram project? If yes, how was the final forest clearance given to the project without any survey of public hearing?

SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: As far as the Polavaram project is concerned, as you know, stop-work is on. So, there is no work.(*Interruptions*). I will give the specific details because there are two decisions. Therefore, I will give the details to the Members.

APPENDIX X

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1983

ANSWERED ON 23.7.2014

Uttarakhand Calamity

1983. SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR:
SHRI VENKATESH BABU T.G.:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has set up a Committee/study group to ascertain the reasons for the devastating flash floods which had ravaged the State of Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh in 2013;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the findings thereto;

(c) whether felling of trees, setting up of hydro-electric projects etc. have been identified as possible causes of such natural calamities; and

(d) if so, the action taken by the Government to prevent the recurrence of such calamities?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR): (a) to (d) In compliance to Hon'ble Supreme Court Order dated 13.8.2013, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change had constituted an Expert Body (EB) and appointed Dr. Ravi Chopra as its Chairman along with 15 other members to undertake a detailed study as to whether hydro-electric power projects—existing and under construction have contributed to the environmental degradations and contributed to the tragedy which occurred in the month of June, 2013 in Uttarakhand and if so, to what extent. The direction also is to examine the impact of the proposed 24 hydro-power projects on the biodiversity in Alaknanda and Bhagirathi River Basins as identified by the Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun.

The Expert Body submitted its report to MoEF & CC on 16.04.2014. Two members of the Committee namely Central Water Commission (CWC) & Central

Electricity Authority (CEA) submitted a separate report with divergent views. These two reports were submitted to Hon'ble Supreme Court on 7.5.2014. Hon'ble Supreme Court directed Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change to examine both the reports and submit before Court a firm and appropriate proposal. Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change has referred both these reports to Consortium of IITs and a final view would be filed before Court after having received and evaluated the report of the Consortium.

APPENDIX XI

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2859

ANSWERED ON 30.7.2014

National Board of Wildlife

2859. SHRI JITENDRA CHAUDHURY:
KUMARI SUSHMITA DEV:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Board of Wildlife (NBW) has been constituted by the Government;

(b) if so, the terms of reference of the Board;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and the time by which it is likely to be constituted;

(d) whether many projects including Agartala-Sabroom Railway line are pending for clearance due to non-constitution of NBW; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the action taken for clearance of these pending projects?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR): (a) and (b) The National Board for Wildlife has been reconstituted on 22nd July, 2014. As per Section 5C of the Wild life (Protection) Act, 1972, the functions of the National Board include:—

- (i) To promote the conservation and development of wildlife and forests by such measures as it thinks fit;
- (ii) Framing policies and advising the Central Government and the State Governments on the ways and means of promoting wildlife conservation and effectively controlling poaching and illegal trade of wildlife and its products;
- (iii) Making recommendations on the setting up of the management of national parks, sanctuaries and other protected areas and on matters relating to restriction of activities in those areas;

- (iv) Carrying out or causing to be carried out impact assessment of various projects and activities on wildlife or its habitat;
- (v) Reviewing from time to time, the progress in the field of wildlife conservation in the country and suggesting measures for improvement thereto; and
- (vi) Preparing and publishing a status report at least once in two years on wildlife in the country.

(c) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(d) & (e) About 233 proposals, including the proposal for diversion of 9.94 ha. of forest land from Trishna Wildlife Sanctuary for construction of New Railway Line Broad Gauge (BG) between Agartala to Sabroom, Tripura, are pending for clearance of the Standing Committee of NBWL for the last one year. The details are as given below:—

Proposals considered during previous meetings for decision by the Standing Committee of NBWL	72
Fresh proposals falling within Protected Areas	43
Fresh proposals falling within 10 kms. from Protected Areas	56
Incomplete proposals	62
Total	233

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has reconstituted the Standing Committee of NBWL. The first meeting of the newly reconstituted Standing Committee has been fixed for 12th August, 2014. Proposals for clearance shall also be considered in the said meeting of the Standing Committee of NBWL.

APPENDIX XII

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2258

ANSWERED ON 10.03.2015

National Board for Wildlife

2258. SHRI DHANANJAY MAHADIK:
SHRI MOHITE PATIL VIJAYSINH SHANKARRAO:
SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:
SHRI T. RADHAKRISHNAN:
SHRI SATAV RAJEEV:
DR. HEENA VIJAYKUMAR GAVIT:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether concurrence of the National Board for Wildlife (NBWL) is required for all those projects which are to come up in the vicinity of wildlife sanctuaries or protected areas in any part of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of projects cleared/approved by the NBWL in the current year, project and sector-wise;

(d) the time taken by the NBWL for approving various projects; and

(e) the steps taken/being taken by the Government for ensuring the safety of wildlife while sanctioning various projects including power plants?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR): (a) and (b) Projects requiring Environmental Clearance, coming up within the Ecologically Sensitive Zone of wildlife sanctuary or 10 km. aerial distance from the boundary of wildlife sanctuaries for which ESZ is yet to be notified require recommendation of Standing Committee of National Board for Wildlife (NBWL) as part of Environment Clearance process.

(c) In the year 2015, 48 projects have been recommended by Standing Committee of NBWL. The details of projects recommended by the Standing Committee of NBWL is at Annexure.

(d) The meeting of Standing Committee of NBWL is ordinarily held once in 3.

ANNEXURE

THE DETAILS OF THE PROJECTS RECOMMENDED BY THE STANDING
COMMITTEE OF NBWL DURING 2015 IS AT ANNEXURE

Sector	No. of Projects
Raod	11
Irrigation	6
Oil & Natural Gas	2
Pipeline	2
Railways	2
Tourism	2
Thermal Power Plants & Other Power Plants	6
Transmission Lines	1
Industry	1
Steel Plant	2
Bridge	1
Light House and Port	1
OFC	2
Mining	1
Petrol Pump	8
Total	48

APPENDIX XIII

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 516

ANSWERED ON 26.11.2014

Tiger Protection Force

516. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has received any proposals for setting up of Special Tiger Protection Force;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government thereon, State-wise;
- (c) whether a proposal has been sent to the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) for raising of a Special Tiger Protection Force in Sariska Tiger Reserve;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the present status of the proposal; and
- (e) the details of funds allocated for the same?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR): (a) and (b) the Special Tiger Protection Force is currently operational in States of Karnataka (Bandipur Tiger Reserve), Maharashtra (Tadoba-Andhari and Pench Tiger Reserves) and Odisha (Similipal Tiger Reserve), with 100% support under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Project Tiger. In-principle approval of the Government of India has been accorded for raising, arming and deploying the Special Tiger Protection Force in Melghat and Nawegaon Nagzira Tiger Reserve of Maharashtra.

(c), (d) and (e) funding support for Special Tiger Protection Force, *inter alia*, has been sought by the State for Sariska Tiger Reserve during the current financial year. The State has been advised for a detailed proposal *vis-a-vis* the guidelines issued in this regard.

APPENDIX XIV

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1379

ANSWERED ON 03.03.2015

Special Tiger Protection Force

1379. SHRI RAJESHBHAI CHUDASAMA:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had given one time grant a few years back to the National Tiger Conservation Authority for raising Special Tiger Protection Force in sensitive tiger reserves across the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the progress made so far in this regard, State-wise;

(c) whether the said funds has been utilised; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the action taken thereon?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The policy initiatives announced by the Finance Minister in his Budget Speech of the 29th February, 2008, *inter alia*, contains action points relating to tiger protection. Based on the one time grant of Rs. 50.00 crore provided to the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) for raising, arming and deploying a Special Tiger Protection Force (STPF), the proposal for the said force has been approved by the competent authority for 13 sensitive tiger reserves, namely Ranthambhore (Rajasthan), Dudhwa (Uttar Pradesh), Corbett (Uttarakhand), Bandipur (Karnataka), Kanha (Madhya Pradesh), Bandhavgarh (Madhya Pradesh), Pench (Madhya Pradesh), Tadoba-Andhari (Maharashtra), Pench (Maharashtra), Similipal (Odisha), Kaziranga (Assam), Pakke (Arunachal Pradesh) and Mudumalai (Tamil Nadu). Out of the aforesaid tiger reserves, the Special Tiger Protection Force (STPF) has been raised, armed and deployed in 4 tiger reserves namely, Bandipur (Karnataka), Pench and Tadoba-Andhari (Maharashtra) and Similipal (Odisha), with 100% central assistance under the ongoing Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Project Tiger.

Besides this, in principle approval has been accorded for raising, arming and deploying the Special Tiger Protection Force in Nawegaon-Nagzira and Melghat (Maharashtra), Kawal and Amrabad (Telangana) Tiger Reserves. Process is underway for rest of the States.

(c) and (d) Yes Sir. Under the ongoing Centrally sponsored Scheme of Project Tiger, fund allocation is done for the same, based on the APO submitted by the concerned tiger reserves. The details are at *Annexure-I*.

ANNEXURE-I

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (C) & (D) OF THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1379 ON
SPECIAL TIGER PROTECTION FORCE DUE FOR REPLY ON 03.03.2015

Funding support provided for raising, arming and deploying the Special Tiger Protection Force (STPF) under the Centrally sponsored Scheme of Project Tiger during last three years and current year:—

Sl. No.	Name of tiger reserve	State	Year								(Rs. in lakhs)
			2011-12		2012-13		2013-14		2014-15 as on 19.2.2015		
			Allocation	Release	Allocation	Release	Allocation	Release	Allocation	Release	
1.	Pench	Maharashtra	0.00	0.00	86.80115	86.80115	220.00	196.55	228.96	183.168	
2.	Tadoba Andhari	Maharashtra	0.00	0.00	86.80115	86.80115	220.00	175.80	210.00	168.00	
3.	Bandipur	Karnataka	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	477.9772	477.9772	340.731	340.731	
4.	Similipal	Odisha	300.00	240.00	0.00	0.00	250.00	200.00	250.00	200.00	

APPENDIX XV

(Vide para 5 of the Report)

EXTRACTS FROM MANUAL OF PRACTICE AND PROCEDURE IN THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, NEW DELHI

Definition.	<p>8.1 During the course of reply given to a question or a discussion, if a minister gives an undertaking which involves further action on the part of the Government in reporting back to the House, it is called an 'assurance'. Standard list of such expressions which normally constitute assurances and as approved by the Committees on Government Assurance of the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha, is given at <i>Annex 3</i>. As assurances are required to be implemented within a specified time limit, care should be taken by all concerned while drafting replies to the questions to restrict the use of these expressions only to those occasions when it is clearly intended to give an assurance in these terms.</p> <p>8.2 When an assurance is given by a Minister or when the Presiding Officer directs the Government to furnish information to the House, it is extracted by the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs from the relevant proceedings and communicated to the department concerned normally within 10 working days of the date on which it is given.</p>
Deletion from the list of assurances.	<p>8.3.1 If the administrative department has any objection to treating such a statement as an assurance or finds that it would not be in the public interest to fulfil it, it may write to the Lok/Rajya Sabha Secretariat direct with a copy to the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs within a week of the receipt of such communication for getting it deleted from the list of assurances. Such action will require prior approval of the Minister.</p> <p>8.3.2 Departments should make request for dropping of assurances immediately on receipt of statement of assurances from the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs and only in rare cases where they are fully convinced that the assurances could not be implemented under any circumstances and there is no option left with them but to make a request for dropping. Such requests should have the approval of their Minister and this fact should be indicated in their communication containing the request. If such a request is made towards the end of the stipulated period of three months, then it should invariably be</p>

	<p>accompanied with a request for extension of time. The department should continue to seek extension of time till a decision of the Committee on Government Assurances is received by them. Copy of the above communications should be simultaneously endorsed to the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs.</p>
Time limit for fulfilling an assurance.	<p>8.4.1 An assurance given in either House is required to be fulfilled within a period of three months from the date of the assurance. This time limit has to be strictly observed.</p>
Extension of time for fulfilling an assurance.	<p>8.4.2 If the department finds that it is not possible to fulfil the assurance within the stipulated period of three months or within the period of extension already granted, it may seek further extension of time direct from the respective Committee on Government Assurances under intimation to the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs as soon as the need for such extension becomes apparent, indicating the reasons for delay and the probable additional time required. Such a communication should be issued with the approval of the Minister.</p>
Registers of assurances.	<p>8.5.1 The particulars of every assurance will be entered by the Parliament Unit of the department concerned in a register as at <i>Annex 4</i> after which the assurance will be passed on to the concerned section.</p> <p>8.5.2 Even ahead of their receipt of communication from the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, the section concerned should take prompt action to fulfil such assurances and keep a watch thereon in a register as at <i>Annex 5</i>.</p> <p>8.5.3 The registers referred to in paras 8.5.1 and 8.5.2 will be maintained separately for the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha assurances, entries therein being made session wise.</p>
Role of Section Officer and Branch Officer.	<p>8.6.1 The Section Office incharge of the concerned section will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) scrutinise the registers once a week; (b) ensure the necessary follow-up action is taken without any delay whatsoever; (c) submit the registers to the branch officer every fortnight if the House concerned is in session and once a month otherwise, drawing his special attention to assurances which are not likely to be implemented within the period of three months; and (d) review of pending assurances should be undertaken periodically at the highest level in order to minimise the delay in implementing the assurances.

	<p>8.6.2 The branch officer will likewise keep his higher officer and Minister informed of the progress made in the implementation of assurances, drawing their special attention to the causes of delay.</p>
Procedure for fulfilment of an assurance.	<p>8.7.1 Every effort should be made to fulfil the assurance within the prescribed period. In case only part of the information is available and collection of the remaining information would involve considerable time, an implementation report containing the available information should be supplied to the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs in part scrutinize of the assurance, within the prescribed time limit. However, efforts should continue to be made for expeditious collection of the remaining information for complete implementation of the assurance at the earliest.</p> <p>8.7.2 Information to be supplied in partial or complete fulfilment of an assurance should be approved by the Minister concerned and 15 copies thereof (bilingual) in the prescribed proforma as at <i>Annex 6</i>, together with its enclosures, along with one copy each in Hindi and English duly authenticated by the officer forwarding the implementation report, should be sent to the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs. If, however, the information being furnished is in response to an assurance given in reply to a question etc., asked for by more than one member, an additional copy of the completed proforma (both in Hindi and English) should be furnished in respect of each additional member. A copy of this communication should be endorsed to the Parliament Unit for completing column 7 of its register.</p> <p>8.7.3 The implementation reports should be sent to the Ministry of the Parliamentary Affairs and not to the Lok/Rajya Sabha Secretariat. No advance copies of the implementation reports are to be endorsed to the Lok/Rajya Sabha Secretariat either.</p>
Laying of the implementation report on the Table of the House.	<p>8.8 The Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, after a scrutiny of the implementation report, will arrange to lay it on the Table of the House concerned. A copy of the statement, as laid on the Table, will be forwarded by the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs to the member as well as the department concerned. The Parliament Unit of the department concerned and the concerned section will, on the basis of this statement, make a suitable entry in their registers.</p>
Obligation to lay a paper on the Table of the House <i>vis-a-vis</i> assurance on	<p>8.9 Where there is obligation to lay any paper (rule/order/notification, etc.) on the Table of the House and for which an assurance has also been given, it will be laid on the Table, in the first instance, in fulfilment of the obligation, independent of the assurance given. After this is done, a report in formal</p>

the same subject.	implementation of the assurance indicating the date on which the paper was laid on the Table will be sent to the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs in the prescribed proforma (<i>Annex 6</i>) in the manner already described in para 8.7.2.
Committees on Government Assurances LSR 323,324 RSR 211-A.	8.10 Each House of Parliament has a Committee on Government assurances nominated by the Speaker/Chairman. It scrutinized the implementation reports and the time taken in the scrutinized of Government assurances of focuses attention on the delays and other significant aspects, if any, pertaining to them. Instructions issued by the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs from time to time are to be followed strictly.
Reports of the Committees on Government Assurances.	8.11 The department will, in consultation with the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, scrutinize the reports of these two committees for remedial action wherever called for.
Effect on Assurances on dissolution of the Lok Sabha.	8.12 On dissolution of the Lok Sabha, all assurances, promises or undertakings pendings implementation are scrutinized by the new Committee on Government assurances for selection of such of them as are of considerable public importance. The Committee then submits a report to the Lok Sabha with a specific recommendation regarding the assurances to be dropped or retained for implementation by the Government.

MINUTES
COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES
(2015-16)

(SIXTEENTH LOK SABHA)

SEVENTH SITTING

(15.02.2016)

The Committee sat from 1100 Hrs. to 1310 in Committee Room "139", Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

PRESENT

Dr. Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' — *Chairperson*

MEMBERS

2. Shri Rajendra Agrawal
3. Shri Anto Antony
4. Shri Naran Bhai Kachhadia
5. Shri Bahadur Singh Koli
6. Shri Prahlad Singh Patel
7. Shri C.R. Patil
8. Shri Taslimuddin

SECRETARIAT

- | | | | |
|----|----------------------|---|----------------------------|
| 1. | Shri R.S. Kambo | — | <i>Joint Secretary</i> |
| 2. | Shri S.C. Chaudhary | — | <i>Director</i> |
| 3. | Shri T.S. Rangarajan | — | <i>Additional Director</i> |
| 4. | Shri S.L. Singh | — | <i>Deputy Secretary</i> |

WITNESSES

Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

1. Shri Hem Pande, Special Secretary
2. Dr. S.K. Khanduri, IGF
3. Shri Manoj Kumar Singh, Joint Secretary

1. Shri Pushkal Upadhyay, Director

1. Shri Manoharan, Deputy Secretary
2. Shri A.B. Acharya, Under Secretary

- (i) USQ No. 672 dated 08.07.2009 regarding 'Seeting up of National Environment Protection Authority' (Sl.No. 1).
- (ii) SQ No. 90 dated 25.11.2009 regarding 'National Environment Protection Authority' (Sl.No. 2).
- (iii) USQ No. 3595 dated 01.12.2010 regarding 'Setting up of NEPA' (Sl.No. 3).

The Committee were informed that in 2007, a Parliamentary Steering Committee for the Eleventh Five Year Plan had recommended for formation of an agency on the lines of the Environment Protection Agency of the United States of America (USA) for enforcement of environment laws. The Ministry, accordingly, initiated the process of forming National Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA). In 2009, there was consultation with the various Ministers of Forests Departments of all the States. In 2010, IIT Delhi further studied the concept and advised the Ministry to name the said agency as National Environment Assessment & Monitoring Authority (NEAMA). Further, in 2011, consequent upon the LAFARGE judgment, the Supreme Court observed that there must be an authority which is independent of the Ministry for looking into environmental and forest related issues. Since, the Assurance and abovesaid consultation pertain to year 2009, the Committee enquired about the inability to set up the Authority in that year. The Ministry responded that earlier, there was a thought that the law making task

in the matter would be undertaken by the Ministry while monitoring, regulation and enforcement of the same would be done by NEPA and adjudicatory functions would be performed by the NGT. Later on, it was thought to make the Indian body in this regard to have a broader mandate including the functions of project appraisal, enforcement and monitoring on the lines of the similar American Agency. Further to this development, NEPA was transformed into NEAMA. Consequent upon the Supreme Court judgment, the matter had gone to the Cabinet which recommended for wider consultation in the matter because the reach of this authority would also be in various other Ministries. In view of the present situation that the proposal has yet not been given the final shape and all the three aspects *i.e.* NEPA NEAMA and Regulatory Authority are getting involved, the Ministry stated that they have been taking time extensions from the Committee for fulfilling the Assurance. The Committee questioned the suitability/appropriateness of shaping the country's Environment Protection Authority on the American model. Observing that matter has been pending since 2009 and even a part implementation report has not been furnished as yet, the Committee directed the Ministry to inform the Ministries concerned and ensure inter-Ministerial coordination, held someone responsible for lapses/shortcomings in the matter and submit a part implementation report detailing the steps taken by the Ministry for fulfillment of the Assurance from 2009 to 2015-2016 and changes brought about by these steps.

- (iv) USQ No. 1317 dated 08.08.2011 regarding 'NEAMA' (Sl.No. 4)
- (v) USQ No. 2925 dated 12.12.2011 regarding 'Establishment of NEAMA' (Sl.No. 5)
- (vi) USQ No. 1951 dated 26.03.2012 regarding 'Setting up of NEAMA' (Sl.No. 6).

The Committee were informed that the Assurances relate to establishment of an Environmental Regulatory Authority which has not yet been given a final shape. The Committee pointed out the need to prepare separate environmental policy for Himalayan belt considering the totally different environmental conditions in this belt and directed the Ministry of furnish a part implementation report in the matter.

- (vii) USQ No. 4997 dated 07.05.2012 regarding 'Clearances to Dams on River' (Sl. No. 7).
- (viii) USQ No. 74 dated 05.08.2013 regarding 'Protection of Environment in Himalayan Region' (Sl. No. 8).
- (ix) USQ No. 224 dated 23.07.2014 (Supplementary by Shri Jyotiraditya Madhavrao Scindia, M.P.) regarding 'Impact of Hydro Power Projects on Environment' (Sl. No. 9).

- (x) USQ No. 1983 dated 23.07.2014 regarding 'Uttarakhand Calamity' (Sl.No. 10).

The Committee were informed that the matter pertains to grant of forest and environment clearance for hydel projects in Bhagirathi and Alaknanda river basin of Uttarakhand which is a subject matter of the report prepared by the Wild Life Institute of India and is pending before the Supreme Court of India. The final decision on the recommendation made in the report prepared by the Wild Life Institute of India and is pending before the Supreme Court of India. The final decision on the recommendation made in the report prepared by the Wild Life Institute of India will be made after final decision of the Supreme Court in the matter. As regards SQ No. 74, the Committee were informed that the matter is not being looked into by the National Mission of Clean Ganga under the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation. Necessary inputs for fulfillment of the Assurance are still awaited from the Ministry. The Committee were further informed that matter pertaining to USQ No. 4997 is *sub-judice* and regarding SQ No. 74, the report from IIT Consortium is still awaited. The Ministry sought the permission to lay a report on the above four Assurances citing that the matter is *sub-judice* before the Supreme Court of India and implementation of the Assurance would be possible only after the judgement of the Supreme Court in this regard. As regards SQ No. 224 and USQ No. 1983, the Ministry informed the Committee that the report received from Consortium of IITs has been submitted to the Supreme Court. As directed by the Court, design modifications and compliance report was sought and the outcome and finality in the fulfillment of Assurance would depend upon the final direction of the Court.

- (xi) USQ No. 2859 dated 30.07.2014 regarding 'National Board for Wildlife' (Sl. No. 11).

- (xii) USQ No. 2258 dated 10.03.2015 regarding 'National Board of Wildlife' (Sl. No. 12).

The Minister offered an unconditional apology for delay in the fulfillment of the Assurances and stated that an implementation report has been sent for the approval of the Hon'ble Minister and the implementation report would be laid on the Table of the House. The Committee directed the Ministry to lay the implementation report in the ensuing session. Regarding the Assurance given in reply to USQ 2558, the Ministry stated that the implementation report has been prepared. Elucidating that the Assurances pertain to the various projects which have come up near protected areas, Wild Life Sanctuaries, National Parks and Clarifying whether concurrence of National Board for Wild Life is required for execution for the same, the Ministry informed the Committee that as per the policy adopted by them, these requests are referred to the Standing Committee of the National Board of Wildlife for approval. The Ministry assured the Committee that an implementation report in the matter would be laid shortly.

- (xiii) USQ No. 516 dated 26.11.2014 regarding 'Tiger Protection Force' (Sl. No. 13).
- (xiv) USQ No. 1379 dated 03.03.2015 regarding 'Special Tiger Protection Force' (Sl. No. 14).

The Committee were informed that owing to non-compliance by the respective State Governments, the Assurances could not be fulfilled. Further the Process is time Consuming since it involves recruitment and training of the forces. The Ministry further stated that the State Governments have been requested to ensure the creation of the Tiger Protection Force and thirteen of the most sensitive Tiger Reserves were selected for the creation of this Tiger Protection Force. Out of these, the Force has already been created in 4 Tiger Reserves and consultation is going on with the respective State Governments for creation of the Force in the remaining 9 Tiger Reserves. The Committee directed the Ministry to pursue the matter with the State Government concerned for expeditious creation of the Tiger Protection Force or in the event of lack of inclination to form such a Force on the part the State Governments, they must be made to confirm this in writing. The Committee impressed upon the Ministry for early fulfillment of the Assurance in tune with the needs of the policy paradigm of the Government in this regard.

- 3. The witnesses thereafter withdrew.
- 4. A verbatim record of the proceedings has been kept.

The Committee then adjourned.

ANNEXURE

STATEMENT OF PENDING ASSURANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF
ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Sl. No.	SQ/USQ No. dated	Subject
*1.	USQ No. 672 dated 08.07.2009	Setting up of National Environment Protection Authority
*2.	SQ No. 90 dated 25.11.2009	National Environment Protection Authority
*3.	USQ No. 3595 dated 01.12.2010	Setting up of NEPA
*4.	USQ No. 1317 dated 08.08.2011	NEAMA
*5.	USQ No. 2925 dated 12.12.2011	Establishment of NEAMA
*6.	USQ No. 1951 dated 26.03.2012	Setting up of NEAMA
\$7.	USQ No. 4997 dated 07.05.2012	Clearances to Dams on River
\$8.	USQ No. 74 dated 05.08.2013	Protection of Environment in Himalayan Region
\$9.	SQ No. 224 dated 23.07.2014 (Shri Jyotiraditya Madhavrao Scindia, M.P.)	Impact of Hydro Power Projects on Environment
\$10.	USQ No. 1983 dated 23.07.2014	Uttarakhand Calamity
@11.	USQ No. 2859 dated 30.07.2014	National Board of Wildlife

* Sl. No. 1–6 regarding setting up of NEAMA.

\$ Sl. No. 7–10 regarding Uttarakhand Calamity.

@ Sl.No. 11-12 regarding National Board of Wildlife.

Sl. No.	SQ/USQ No. dated	Subject
@12.	USQ No. 2258 dated 10.03.2015	National Board for Wildlife
#13.	USQ No. 516 dated 26.11.2014	Tiger Protection Force
#14.	USQ No. 1379 dated 03.03.2015	Special Tiger Protection Force

@ Sl.No. 11-12 regarding National Board of Wildlife.

Sl. No. 13-14 regarding Tiger Protection Force.

MINUTES

THIRD SITTING

MINUTES OF THE SITTING OF THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT
ASSURANCES (2016-2017) HELD ON 14 DECEMBER, 2016 IN
CHAIRPERSON CHAMBER'S ROOM NO. 133, PARLIAMENT
HOUSE ANNEXE, NEW DELHI

The Committee sat from 1015 hours to 1050 hours on Wednesday, 14 December, 2016.

PRESENT

Dr. Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' — *Chairperson*

MEMBERS

2. Shri Rajendra Agrawal
3. Prof. Sugata Bose
4. Shri Prahlad Singh Patel
5. Shri C.R. Patil
6. Shri Sunil Kumar Singh

SECRETARIAT

- | | | |
|--------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| 1. Shri R.S. Kambo | — | <i>Additional Secretary</i> |
| 2. Shri S.L. Singh | — | <i>Deputy Secretary</i> |

At the outset, the Chairperson welcomed the Members to the sitting of the Committee and apprised them regarding the day's agenda. Thereafter, the Committee considered and adopted the following seven (07) draft Reports without any amendment:

- (i) Draft 41st Report regarding review of pending Assurances pertaining to the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy.
- (ii) Draft 42nd Report regarding review of pending Assurances pertaining to the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.
- (iii) Draft 43rd Report regarding review of pending Assurances pertaining to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (Department of Health and Family Welfare).
- (iv) Draft 44th Report regarding review of pending Assurances pertaining to the Ministry of Defence (Department of Defence).
- (v) Draft 45th Report regarding requests for dropping of Assurances (acceded to).

- (vi) Draft 46th Report regarding requests for dropping of Assurances (not acceded to).
- (vii) Draft 47th Report regarding review of pending Assurances pertaining to the Ministry of Law and Justice (Legislative Department).

2. The Committee also authorized the Chairperson to present the Reports during the current session of the Lok Sabha.

The Committee then adjourned.

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The Souvenir items with logo of Parliament are also available at Sales Counter, Reception, Parliament House, New Delhi. The Souvenir items with Parliament Museum logo are available for sale at Souvenir Shop (Tel. No. 23035323), Parliament Museum, Parliament Library Building, New Delhi. List of these items are available on the website mentioned above."
