

Plants nullifying ill effect of toxic gases

†2286. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that forests and jungles have the capacity to nullify the ill effects of the toxic gases;
- (b) if so, Government's reaction thereto;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that a few trees found in the country have relatively higher capacity to nullify the ill effects of toxic gases; and
- (d) if so, the names of those trees and scheme for their large scale plantation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) It is well recognized that plants play an important role; in reducing air pollutants including toxic gases. Government is encouraging green belt in the industrial premises, urban conglomerates, road sides etc. While granting environmental clearance to industrial projects, the Ministry stipulates a condition to develop green belt for mitigating air pollution as per the guidelines issued by, the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB).

(c) and (d) The Air Pollution Tolerance Index (APTI) determined on the basis of leaf extract PH, ascorbic acid, total chlorophyll and relative water content varies among different plant species. Some studies have indicated that Ficus, Albizia, Pithecellobium, Phyllanthus and Polyalthia are some of the trees having high APTI.

Conservation of lesser cats in India

2287. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of steps being considered by Government for conservation of lesser cats in the country;
- (b) the details of areas that have been set aside for their conservation;
- (c) the details of certain areas that have been listed as important bird areas by the Indian Bird Conservation Network;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.