

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.

(d) whether Government is considering such areas while examining the diversion cases or during setting of developmental projects; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) The Government of India has taken the following measures to conserve and protect wildlife, including all the lesser cats species, in the country:

- i. Threatened species of wildlife including all the lesser cats are included in the Schedules of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, thereby affording them the highest degree of protection.
- ii. A network of Protected Areas has been established to conserve wildlife and their habitats including rare animals.
- iii. Wildlife Crime Control Bureau has been set up to check illegal trade in wildlife and its products.
- iv. Financial and technical assistance is extended to the State/UT Governments under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes, namely, 'Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats', 'Project Tiger' and 'Project Elephant' for providing better protection and conservation of wildlife.
- v. The Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 has been amended from time to time and made more stringent against wildlife related offences.

(b) Lesser cats are part of faunal life along with other species. A network of protected areas viz. National Parks, Wildlife Sanctuaries, Conservation and Community Reserves has been established in the country. Lesser cats, along with other species are afforded protection in these Protected Areas. The State-wise details of Protected Areas in India are given in Statement-I (See below).

(c) As per BirdLife International, there are 465 Important Bird Areas in India. State-wise details of Important Bird Areas are given in Statement-II (See below). The Important Bird Areas Programme of BirdLife International aims to identify, monitor and protect a global network of Important Bird Areas for the conservation of the world's birds and other biodiversity. Important Bird Areas are identified, monitored and protected by national and local organisations and individuals.

(d) and (e) The Government of India considers all the ecological factors including the biodiversity occurring in the area while examining the proposals for diversion of the forest land of the Protected Areas for the developmental projects.

Statement-I

State-wise details of the Protected Area Network of the country

S.No.	States/UTs	No. of National Parks	No. of Wildlife Sanctuaries	No. of Conservation Reserves	No. of Community Reserves
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Andhra Pradesh	5	22	0	0
2	Arunachal Pradesh	2	11	0	0
3	Assam	5	18	0	0
4	Bihar	1	13	0	0
5	Chhattisgarh	3	11	0	0
6	Goa	1	6	0	0
7	Gujarat	4	22	0	0
8	Haryana	3	7	2	0
9	Himachal Pradesh	2	32	0	0
10	Jammu & Kashmir	4	15	34	0
11	Jharkhand	1	11	0	0
12	Karnataka	5	21	2	1
13	Kerala	6	15	0	1
14	Madhya Pradesh	9	25	0	0
15	Maharashtra	6	35	1	0
16	Manipur	2	5	0	0
17	Meghalaya	2	3	0	0
18	Mizoram	2	7	0	0

1	2	3	4	5	6
19	Nagaland	1	3	0	0
20	Orissa	2	18	0	0
21	Punjab	0	12	0	2
22	Rajasthan	5	23	1	0
23	Sikkim	1	7	0	0
24	Tamil Nadu	5	21	1	0
25	Tripura	2	4	0	0
26	Uttar Pradesh	1	23	0	0
27	Uttaranchal	6	6	2	0
28	West Bengal	5	15	0	0
29	Andaman & Nicobar	9	96	0	0
30	Chandigarh	0	2	0	0
31	Dadar & Nagar Haweli	0	1	0	0
32	Lakshadweep	0	1	0	0
33	Daman & Diu	0	1	0	0
34	Delhi	0	2	0	0
35.	Pondicherry	0	0	0	0
TOTAL		100	514	43	4

Statement-II

State-wise details of important Bird Areas

Sl. No.	Name of the State/UTs	No. of Important Bird Areas
1	2	3
1.	A & N Islands	19
2.	Andhra Pradesh	16
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	28

1	2	3
4.	Assam	46
5.	Bihar	14
6.	Chhattisgarh	4
7.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0
8.	Goa	4
9.	Gujarat	16
10.	Haryana	5
11.	Himachal Pradesh	30
12.	Jammu & Kashmir	21
13.	Jharkhand	0
14.	Karnataka	37
15.	Kerala	24
16.	Lakshadweep	1
17.	Madhya Pradesh	17
18.	Maharashtra	20
19.	Manipur	9
20.	Meghalaya	9
21.	Mizoram	6
22.	Nagaland	9
23.	Orissa	7
24.	Pondicherry	2
25.	Punjab	0
26.	Rajasthan	24

1	2	3
27.	Sikkim	11
28.	Tamil Nadu	34
29.	Tripura	2
30.	Uttar Pradesh	25
31.	Uttarakhand	14
32.	West Bengal	10
33.	Delhi	1
34.	Daman & Diu	0
TOTAL		465

Impact of extremism on administration of tiger reserves

2288. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of impact of extremism on the administration of tiger reserves in the country, tiger reserve-wise; and

(b) the details of estimates/census figures of tigers in the Indravati Tiger Reserve in Chhattisgarh, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) Disturbances due to left wing extremism have been reported by States in some tiger reserves like Similipal (Orissa), Palamau (Jharkhand), Indravati (Chhattisgarh), Nagarjunasagar Srisailem (Andhra Pradesh), Valmiki (Bihar), and Udanti-Sitanadi (Chhattisgarh).

(b) In the last all India estimation of tiger (2008), Indravati Tiger Reserve could not be covered on account of disturbances owing to left wing extremism. However, action has been initiated for estimating the minimum population of tiger in the said reserve through DNA analysis from scats.

Global warming

2289. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state: