

Details on the air connectivity status/projects taken up by the Ministry of Civil Aviation for linking State capitals of the North Eastern States are given below:—

Sl. No.	State-Capital	Status of rail connectivity/ projects under implementation	Target completion
1.	Arunachal Pradesh – Itanagar	New Green field airport at Itanagar is planned.	July 2015
2.	Assam – Guwahati	Already connected	
3.	Manipur – Imphal	Already connected	
4.	Meghalaya – Shillong	Already connected	
5.	Mizoram – Aizawl	Already connected	
6.	Nagaland – Kohima	New Green field airport at Chiethu (Kohima) is planned	No target date fixed.
7.	Sikkim – Gangtok	New Green field airport at Pakyong (Gangtok) is planned	September 2012
8.	Tripura – Agartala	Already connected	

Reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation

2808. SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government endorses the concept of REDD-Plus to seek international assistance to conserve forest resources for carbon sequestration and climate change mitigation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the potential of the country's forests to sequester additional carbon through forest conservation and sustainable forest management (SFM) by 2030 or 2050; and

(d) the details of the progress made by the country in seeking buy-back cooperation of Annexure-I countries of UNFCCC in respect of any additional forest carbon sequestered through forest conservation and SFM?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) The Government has endorsed the concept of REDD+. Incentives so received under this mechanism would be in general passed on to local communities involved in the protection and management of forests. This will ensure sustained protection of our forests against deforestation.

(c) It is estimated that a REDD+ programme for India could provide capture of more than 1 billion tonnes of additional CO₂ over the next 3 decades and provide more than USD 3 billion as carbon service incentives under REDD+.

(d) India is playing a positive role in the REDD+ negotiations at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and has been insisting on following a comprehensive and holistic approach in realising the full potential of mitigation in forestry sector. The modalities and procedures of the REDD+ are yet to be finalised.

Effect of pollution on human and environment

2809. SHRI MOHAMMED ADEEB: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Delhi ranks among 230 most polluted cities in Asia;
- (b) if so, the details of other polluting cities in the country;
- (c) the effects of pollution on human and environmental health;
- (d) the steps taken/being taken to control pollution in the country; and
- (e) the details of the plan prepared for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) As reported by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), the Swedish International Development Co-operation Agency (SIDA) and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) under the Sustainable Urban Mobility in Asia (SUMA) has developed a clean air scorecard for arriving at the air quality ranking for Asian cities. The clean air scorecard tool evaluates the current air quality management status of a city based on Air Pollution and Health Index (APHI), Clean Air Management Capacity Index (CAMCI) and Clean Air Policies and Action Index (CAPAI). Accordingly, based on this assessment, Delhi ranks among 230 most polluted cities in Asia. For ranking of the cities, the data of 2008 for Particulate Matter (PM) has been taken. Besides Delhi, other northern Indian cities such as Kanpur, Lucknow and Ludhiana were categorized as bad on the air pollution scorecard developed by Asian Development Bank (ADB).

(c) Various pollutants may have health impacts depending upon the length of exposure, concentration of pollutants and other factors. However, there is no conclusive data to establish co-relationship between various pollutants and the incidences of health ailments.

(d) to (e) Steps taken by the Government to control air pollution in the cities are as:—

- Ensuring compliance of emission standards as per Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974.