

other adverse impacts, the diversion of forest land for mining purposes is subject to the creation and maintenance of compensatory afforestation, maintenance and regeneration of safety zone, soil conservation measures, phased reclamation of mined area and payment of the Net Present Value (NPV) to be utilized for regeneration and protection of forests.

Extended Producer Responsibility System

*634. SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has started Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) system in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether provision of appropriate economic/financial incentive to stimulate participation by economic agents involved in EPR is intrinsic to EPR;
- (d) if so, the incentive provided to producers, retailers and waste recycling facilities;
- (e) whether the Ministry has defined the range of policy mixes for implementing EPR and thoroughly analyzed it in terms of their economic efficiency and environmental effectiveness; and
- (f) the impact of the EPR on the functioning of recyclable products and materials market in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (f) The Ministry of Environment and Forests has notified the Plastic Waste (Management and Handling) Rules, 2011 on 4th February, 2011. As per these Rules, in line with the principle of Extended Producer's Responsibility (EPR), the municipal authority may ask the manufacturers, either collectively or individually to provide the required finance to establish the plastic waste collection centres.

The Ministry of Environment and Forests has published the draft e-waste (Management and Handling) Rules, 2010. The concept of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) has been incorporated in the draft rules. Accordingly, the producers are required to finance, and organize a

system for environmentally sound management of e-waste generated from their products. The concept of EPR has been adopted as being practised in various countries, requiring the producers to take responsibility for the end of life of their products and to ensure that the waste from such products is channelised for safe handling. Further, a new financial assistance scheme has been introduced to provide financial assistance up to 25% of the total cost for setting up an Integrated E-waste recycling facility on Public Private Partnership basis, subject to matching contribution by the State Government.

Increasing productivity of forests

635. DR. MANOHAR JOSHI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has drawn up a plan to increase the productivity of forests by quality seeds; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the criteria to be adopted for making the quality seeds available to user agencies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) The Forest Research Institute under ICFRE Dehra Dun, established Seedling Seed Orchards (SSOs), Clonal Seed Orchards (CSOs), Germplasm Banks and also identified Seed Production Areas (SPAs) of important tree species in various States. The State Forest Departments are expected to use the seeds from the SSOs, CSOs, SPAs and Germ Plasm Banks for their plantation programmes to increase the productivity of forests.

(b) For increasing forest productivity, it is necessary to use reproductive material, which is genetically superior and phenotypically suited to the plantation site. The object of the certification of tree seed and plants (FRM) is to maintain and make available to various organisations including farmers, State Forest Departments etc. propagation materials of superior provenances and cultivars so grown and distributed so as to ensure the genetic identity and high quality of seed and plants.

The elements of a comprehensive seed certification scheme for forest seed and plants are: (i) Inspection of the seed source by a qualified professional forester, (ii) Assessment of cone/fruit crop by a qualified professional forester before seed collection begins (iii) Collection of cones/fruits by a