

(b) and (c) To increase the per capita forest coverage in the country, the Ministry of Environment & Forests 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 a decentralized mechanism of State Forest Department Agency (SFDA) at State level, Forest Department Agency (FDA) at Forest Division level and Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMCs) at village level. The choice of species to be planted under NAP Scheme is decided by JFMCs, based on local preferences, suitability of land and agro climatic conditions. Seven models of Afforestation have been recognized under the National Afforestation Programme (NAP) and teak could be one of the species.

Besides NAP, the following steps have been taken to promote afforestation/ tree planting in the country which will help to increase the per capita forest coverage in the country:

- Two new **Eco-Task Force (ETF)** Battalions have been operationalised by the Ministry for eco restoration of degraded areas in Assam, in addition to supporting the existing four ETF battalions in the country. An amount of Rs. 31.91 Crores has been released during the 2010-11.
- XIIIth Finance Commission has recommended Rs. 5000 crore for five years starting from 2010-11 for activities including conservation and development of forests.
- Additional Central assistance of Rs. 81.66 Crores has been released to the States during 2009-10 for **Restoration and Regeneration of Forest Cover**.
- Tree planting is also an approved activity under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act.

Incentives for devising mechanism to curb use of plastic

2969. SHRIMATI VASANTHI STANLEY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) the steps taken by Government to contain plastic waste in public places;
- (b) whether Government proposes to work with cities and towns to ban plastics in public places and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, whether Government can provide incentives to towns which have devised mechanisms to curb the spread of plastics?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) to (c) Ministry of Environment and Forests has notified the Plastic Waste (Management and Handling) Rules, 2011 (amended on 02.07.2011) for management of plastic waste. Under these Rules, the municipal authorities are responsible for setting up waste management systems including collection, storage, segregation, transportation, processing and disposal of plastic waste. They are required to set up collection centers for plastic waste involving manufactures in line with the principle of extended producer's responsibility. Further, carry bags are not to be made available free of cost to consumers.

No proposal for a complete ban on the use of plastic bags is under consideration of the Central Government. However, some State Governments have restricted/banned the use of plastic carry bags throughout the State or in ecologically sensitive/tourist places.

Artificial insemination for increasing tiger population

†2970. SHRI DHIRAJ PRASAD SAHU: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to use artificial insemination to increase the number of tigers in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) Under the ongoing Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Project Tiger, 'in-situ' conservation of tiger is supported in designated tiger reserves of 17 tiger States, since the species breeds well under favourable habitat conditions.

Reduction in green house gas emission

2971. DR. T.N. SEEMA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.