

Report 2011 published by Forest Survey of India, the forest cover in the State of Assam, based on interpretation of satellite data of Nov 2008-Jan 2009 is 27,673 sq. km which is 35.28% of the State's geographical area.

(b) Total forest area used by different sectors so far

- (i) Mining - 173.36 hectare
- (ii) Industry - 326.380 hectare
- (iii) Power - 673.45 hectare

(c) These sectors are compensating by ensuring development of people living in those forest areas by engaging the local people in their activities for their livelihood and employment generation.

(d) The user agencies engaged in mining, industry, power etc. provide fund for execution of various developmental activities including afforestation activities through Forest Department of the respective States.

Tropical cyclones due to air pollution

630. SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE:

SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BAL APTE:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that an increase in air pollution in the Indian Subcontinent because of diesel fumes and biomass burning is enhancing intensity of tropical cyclones in the Arabian Sea; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) and (b) The ambient air quality is being monitored across the country under the National Air Monitoring Programme (NAMP). There are 518 operating stations under NAMP covering 216 cities, towns and industrial areas in 26 States and 5 Union Territories as on 29.02.2012. Three pollutants, namely, Sulphur Dioxide (SO₂), Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂) and PM₁₀ (particulate matter having size less than 10 micron) are being monitored at all stations.

The monitored data for ambient air for the last three years (2008, 2009 and 2010) reveals that levels of SO₂ (annual average - 50 µg/m³) are within the prescribed national ambient air quality norms across the country and that of NO₂ (annual average - 40 µg/m³) are within norms in most of cities and towns. However, the level of PM₁₀ (annual average - 60 µg/m³) exceed the prescribed norms in a majority of cities and towns. A fluctuating/mixed trend is being observed and NO₂ is an upcoming pollutant.

As per India Meteorological Department (IMD), the frequency of cyclones and their intensification into severe cyclones over the Arabian Sea do not show any significant trend based on the recorded history of IMD (1891-2010) which includes

the satellite era (1961-2010). As the annual frequency is very less over the Arabian Sea, the decadal frequency has been analysed by IMD to find out the probability of intensification of cyclone into severe cyclone. The analysis shows that there is no significant trend in intensification of cyclones into severe cyclones over the Arabian Sea.

Information relating to project clearance website

631. SHRI SANJAY RAUT :

SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA:

Will the Minister of Environment and Forests be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that vital information related to project clearance is missing on the Ministry's website;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Central Information Commission has directed the Ministry to post entire information about project clearances on its website by April;

(c) if so, the details of the information being put on the website; and

(d) the appropriate action the Ministry is taking to improve transparency in project clearance process?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) to (d) Information pertaining to project clearances like Agenda of Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC) meetings, minutes of the meetings, copies of scoping clearance and Terms of Reference (ToRs) for the preparation of Environmental Impact Assessment/Environment Management Plan Reports, Environment Clearance letters etc. are regularly uploaded on the website of the Ministry. All Acts, Rules, Guidelines and circulars related to environmental clearance for developmental projects and constitution of EACs are available on the website of the Ministry. The Central Information Commission has directed the Ministry to post Form-1, Form-1A, additional information received from the Project Proponents in response to the queries of EAC, site visit reports and site specific study reports on the website of the Ministry from 1st April, 2012. As per the Environment Impact Assessment Notification, 2006, relevant information pertaining to the environment clearance, as mentioned above is posted on the website of the Ministry.

Steep rise in river pollution

632. SHRI BHARATSINH PRABHATSINH PARMAR:

SHRI PARSHOTTAM KHODABHAI RUPALA:

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

(a) whether Government is aware that there is steep rise in pollution of various rivers;