

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is a fact that India's emission targets are not being met, repeatedly;
- (d) if so, the details of Indian emissions and the targets set, for the last three years,;
- (e) the steps taken by Government to check emission levels in the country;
- (f) whether Government is considering any new proposal to reduce emissions;
- (g) if so, the details thereof; and
- (h) if not, the reasons there for?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) to (d) Yes, India has signed the Kyoto Protocol in 1997 and ratified it in 2002. The Protocol sets binding targets for industrialized countries for reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions to an average of five percent (5%) against 1990 levels over the period 2008-2012. Under this Protocol, India does not have any emission targets and emission reduction in India is voluntary in nature.

(e) to (h) To check emission levels, Government follows the policy of sustainable development through a range of programmes aimed at energy conservation, improved energy efficiency in various sectors; promoting use of renewable energy; use of cleaner fuel for transport; etc.

The Government has also launched the National Action Plan on Climate Change in 2008 that includes National Solar Mission and National Mission on Enhanced Energy Efficiency which aim at reducing emissions.

Erosion of Indian coastline

1897. DR. VIJAY MALLYA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that according to the National Institute of Oceanography Scientists nearly a quarter of India's 5,500 kms coastline is under threat of erosion;

(b) whether Government is also aware that during the last decade the extent of erosion across the coastline has increased from 22.4 per cent in 2004 to 29.96 per cent this year;

(c) whether it is a fact that Karnataka is also one among the worst hit;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) to (e) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Loss of forests land in Himalayan region

†1898. SHRI MOTI LAL VORA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as per the report of the Indian Forest Survey, Dehradun prepared with the help of Remote Sensing Technology-more than 400 Kilometres of forests areas in the Himalayan region has been destroyed during the last two years;

(b) Whether it is also a fact that there is likelihood of acid rainfall and rise in radiation level to the dangerous level in many States due to destruction of forests; and

(c) if so, steps Government is taking for protection and expansion of forests?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) Forest Survey of India has been carrying out wall to wall mapping of the forest cover of the country using remote sensing technology. As per the physiographic zones given in India State of Forest Report-2011, the Himalayan region can be divided broadly into Western and Eastern Himalayas.

Western Himalayas: These comprise of all districts of Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir (all districts), Utrakhand (11 out of 13 districts), Punjab (3 out of 17 districts)

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.