

(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), Uttarakhand (11 out of 13 districts), Punjab (3 out of 17 districts)

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Eastern Himalayas: Arunachal Pradesh (10 out of 12 districts), Sikkim (all 4 districts) and West Bengal (1 out of 17 districts).

Of these Himalayan States only Arunachal Pradesh has reported a decline of 74 Square km. (as per the India State of Forest Report-2011) in forest cover as compared to the last assessment *i.e.* India State of Forest Report-2009.

(b) The Ministry has not received any report in this regard.

(c) The following initiatives have been taken by the Government to protect and expand forest cover in the country :

- (i) The Ministry of Environment and 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 Development Agency (SFDA) at State level, Forest Development Agency (FDA) at Forest Division level and Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMCs) at Village levels. As on 31-03-2012, 800 FDA projects have been approved in 28 States in the country to treat an area of 18.86 lakh hectares through 42535 JFMCs since inception of the Scheme in 2002.
- (ii) The Ministry release funds under the Intensification of Forest Management Scheme (IFMS), for strengthening of forest protection such as infrastructure, fire protection, demarcation of forest boundaries, construction of facilities for frontline staff and communication which also contributed towards increase in the forest cover.
- (iii) Under the National Action Plan on Climate Change announced by the Central Government, a National Mission for a 'Green India' has been mooted with major objectives to increase forests/tree cover on 5 million ha. of forest/non-forest lands and also to improve the quality of the forest cover on another 5 million ha.
- (iv) Under the award of 13th Finance Commission, a grant of Rs. 5000 crores has been allocated as "Forest Grants" to the states on the basis of their forest cover in the State in relation to the national average. It has been further weighted by the quality of the forests in each state as measured by density.

- (v) Afforestation activities are undertaken under various External Aided Projects in Haryana, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Odisha, Himachal Pradesh, Tripura, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Sikkim and Rajasthan.

Environment clearance to irrigation projects in Maharashtra

1899. DR. BHARAT KUMAR RAUT: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that proposals of some irrigation projects at Nagpur, Chandrapur, Bhandara and Hingoli districts of Maharashtra State are pending with the Ministry for long;
- (b) the current status of the proposals submitted by the Maharashtra Government; and
- (c) by when the approval to the proposals are likely to be accorded?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) to (c) Two irrigation projects from Maharashtra are pending for environmental clearance in the Ministry of Environment and Forests. These relate to Sapli Dam Project in Hingoli District of Maharashtra and Lendi Major irrigation. Project in Nanded and Nizamabad Districts of Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh. These projects were considered and appraised under the provisions of EIA Notification, 2006 by the Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC) for River Valley and Hydroelectric Projects in its various meetings. Additional information from Government of Maharashtra as sought by EAC is awaited in respect of Lendi Project. With regard to Sapli Dam Project, it has been observed that the Public Hearing for Hingoli District has not been conducted in the manner prescribed in the EIA Notification, 2006. The State Government has, therefore, been requested to conduct Public Hearing in the Hingoli District.

Inspection of industrial units under Environmental Surveillance Scheme

1900. SHRI C.M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the random inspection of industrial units carried out by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) under the Environmental Surveillance Scheme; and