

(b) the current status of this proposal and by when this proposal is planned to be finalised and the reasons of its delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR): (a) and (b) CRZ clearance was issued to Maharashtra State Road Development Corporation (MSRDC) for the development of Passenger Water Transport Project along West Coast of Mumbai City on 6th December, 2005 and is 15th May, 2006. Since the validity of the above clearances expired in the year 2011, MSRDC submitted a fresh proposal in August, 2012. Terms of References for carrying out Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) study were granted as required under the EIA Notification, 2006. MSRDC submitted final EIA, along with Public Hearing Minutes, in December, 2012. The project was examined by the Expert Appraisal Committee in its meeting held in January, 2013 and the EAC recommended the project for grant of environment and CRZ clearance. Accordingly, the environment and CRZ clearance to the project was granted on 8th March, 2013.

Foreign help to increase forest cover

†3103. SHRINARAYAN LAL PANCHARIYA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the forest cover of the country is shrinking every year and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the oxygen level is decreasing due to shrinking forest cover and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government is taking any foreign help to increase forest cover and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR): (a) As per India State of Forest Report (ISFR) 2013, there is a net increase of 5,871 square kilometers in the forest cover of the country, as compared to previous assessment *i.e.* India State of Forest Report (ISFR) 2011.

(b) There is no report that oxygen level is decreasing due to shrinking forest cover.

(c) A number of forestry projects with external finance assistance are in operation in various States as per the details given in Statement (*See below*). Afforestation is one of the components under some of these projects. The various activities under these projects help to improve/increase forest cover.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Statement*A list of ongoing Forestry Projects with external financial assistance*

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	Date of Loan Agreement	Implementing Agency/State	Loan Amount (in ₹ crores)	Funding Agency
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Assam Project on Forest and Bio-diversity Conservation	Feb 22, 2012	Assam	329.40	French Development Agency
2.	West Bengal Forestry and Biodiversity Conservation Project	March 29, 2012	West Bengal	344.37	Japan International Co-operation Agency (JICA)
3.	Rajasthan Forestry and Biodiversity Project (Phase-II)	June 16, 2011	Rajasthan	884.77	Japan International Co-operation Agency (JICA)
4.	Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Conservation and Greening Project	Feb. 17, 2011	Tamil Nadu	469.62	Japan International Co-operation Agency (JICA)
5.	Sikkim Biodiversity Conservation and Forest Management Project	March 31, 2010	Sikkim	280.41	Japan International Co-operation Agency (JICA)
6.	Uttar Pradesh Participatory Forest Management and Poverty Alleviation Project	March 10, 2008	Uttar Pradesh	468.24	Japan International Co-operation Agency (JICA)
7.	Gujarat Forestry Development Project Phase II	March 30, 2007	Gujarat	695.27	Japan International Co-operation Agency (JICA)
8.	Tripura Forest Environmental Improvement and Poverty Alleviation Project	March 30, 2007	Tripura	306.54	Japan International Co-operation Agency (JICA)
9.	Swan River Integrated Watershed Management Project	March 31, 2006	Himachal Pradesh	140.28	Japan International Co-operation Agency (JICA)

1	2	3	4	5	6
10.	Odisha Forestry Sector Development Project	March 31, 2006	Odisha	559.71	Japan International Co-operation Agency (JICA)
11.	Tamil Nadu Afforestation project phase-II	March 31, 2005	Tamil Nadu	409.08	Japan International Co-operation Agency (JICA)
12.	Uttarakhand Forest Management Project	April 11, 2014	Uttarakhand	682.03	Japan International Co-operation Agency (JICA)
13.	Karnataka Forest Management Biodiversity Conservation	March 31, 2005	Karnataka	633.70	Japan International Co-operation Agency (JICA)

Changes in National Forest Policy to reduce wood imports

3104. SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering changes to the National Forest Policy to allow harvesting of degraded or open forests to reduce wood imports; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR): (a) and (b) There is no proposal to change National Forest Policy, 1988 to allow harvesting of degraded or open forests to reduce wood imports.

Forest cover as shown in Forest Report 2013

3105. SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the bulk of the increase in forest cover shown in the State of the Forest Report 2013, about 3800 sq.km, was in just one State, and can be attributed to a correction in previous survey data; and

(b) whether the area under moderately dense forest cover has shrunk in the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR): (a) As per the India State of forest Report (ISFR) 2013, there is an increase of 3810 square kilometers in the forest cover of the State of West Bengal with respect to previous assessment *i.e.* India State