

of Forest Report (ISFR) 2011. The total increase in forest cover not only pertains to the period of ISFR 2011 and ISFR 2013 but a major part of the increase has been attributed to inclusion of Trees Outside Forests (TOF) areas specially in North 24 Pargana district and Malda district which could not be captured in the earlier assessments.

(b) As per the India State of Forest Report (ISFR) 2013 there is a decline of 1991 square kilometers in the moderately dense forests category between the two assessments, at country level.

Forest land given for various projects

3106. SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of forest land given for power, mining and other development projects in the last year; and

(b) whether any steps have been taken to address unauthorised renewal of leases, illegal mining, continuance of mining leases despite adverse comments in monitoring reports and arbitrariness in decisions of forestry clearance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, during the last year, has accorded approval under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of 40,649 ha of forest land involving 10,181ha and 6,452 ha of forest land for mining and power projects, respectively.

In some of the proposals seeking prior approval of Central Government under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for grant or renewal of mining lease, execution of mining activities in forest land without obtaining requisite prior approval under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 or in violation of conditions stipulated in approvals accorded under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of such forest land are reported by the State Governments. Central Government while according prior approval under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 to such proposals stipulate appropriate penal measures. These penal measures include realisation of penal Net Present Value (NPV) from the user agency and funds for creation of penal compensatory afforestation, initiation of proceedings in accordance with the provisions of the section 3 A and 3 B of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and/or relevant sections of the Indian Forest Act, 1927 and/or the relevant sections of the Local Forest Act, as the facts of each case may demand.

Projects covered under United Nations Mechanism for reducing emissions

3107. SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) the details regarding number of projects in India covered under the United Nations Mechanism for Reducing Emissions for Deforestation and Degradation (REED); and

- (b) the guidelines and eligibility criteria for REED projects in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR): (a) and (b) Formally, India has not launched REDD+ and there is no project from the country under the United Nations Mechanism for Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation (REED). India is in the process of finalizing the National REDD+ Policy and Strategy.

Reasons for delay in providing clearances for various projects in Odisha

3108. SHRI A.U. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state :

- (a) the number and details of the industrial, port, coal and mining projects in the state of Odisha pending under the Ministry for environmental clearance; and
- (b) the current status of each of the proposals; and the reasons for delay in providing clearances for the aforesaid projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR): (a) and (b) 21 project proposals related to industry, coal mining and non-coal mining (industry: 8, coal mining: 3 and non-coal mining: 10) from the State of Odisha, are pending with the Ministry for grant of environment clearance.

The project proposals for environment clearance are considered as per the provisions of the Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification, 2006, as amended from time to time, which *inter-alia* provides timelines for various stages of clearance process. Sometimes, delays occur essentially on account of delay in receiving requisite information from the project proponents and in conducting public hearing by the concerned district level authorities.

Desertification and Land Degradation Atlas

3109. DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government had published the Desertification and Land Degradation Atlas of India in 2007, if so, the details thereof; and
- (b) whether Government plans to make the country free from land degradation by 2030 to meet the requirements of increasing population?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR): (a) Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) had carried out desertification and land degradation status mapping