

- (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 for 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

at 1:500,000 scale using Indian Remote Sensing Satellite data of 2003-2005 time frame following the classification systems of Thematic Programme Network-I (TPN-I) of United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and published "Desertification and Land Degradation Atlas of India" in 2007. The copy of the Atlas is available at the website (<http://envfor.nic.in/division/desertification-atlas>) of the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change.

The mapping shows that the total land degradation area of the country is 105.48 million hectare out of which 81.45 million hectare area of the country (25 % of the country's geographical area) is undergoing the process of desertification. The various processes of desertification are water erosion, vegetal degradation, wind erosion, frost shattering, salinity/alkalinity, mass movement, water logging, rocky area barren and others (man-made mining etc.)

(b) India's New National Action Programme to Combat Desertification is under formulation with an aspirational goal of making the country land degradation neutral by 2030 and thereby maintaining and improving the condition of land resources to meet the requirements of increasing population.

Degradation of forest cover due to forest fires

3110. DR. K. V. P. RAMACHANDRARAO: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that forest fires cause degradation of forest cover and soil and endanger the flora and fauna and adjoining human habitations;

(b) if so, whether any study has been conducted on the losses caused by the forest fires in the country, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action being taken on the suggestions made in the studies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR): (a) It is a fact that forest fires cause degradation of forest cover and soil, endanger the flora and fauna and adjoining human habitations. However, most of the forest fires in the country are ground fires due to which dried fallen material on the forest floor gets burnt. The forest regenerates after rainfall subsequently.

(b) and (c) No such study has been conducted on the losses caused by the forest fires in the country. However, the forest survey of India has come out with a report on vulnerability of India's forests to fires. Management and protection of forests is primarily the responsibility of the respective State/Union Territory Governments. The information pertaining to the extent of damage due to forest fires is not compiled in the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change.