

Allocation of forests to industries without clearance

†1689. SHRI LAL SINH VADODIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that several States in the country have allocated the forests to the industries even without obtaining the approval of the Ministry;
- (b) if so, whether Government is going to take any action to save the jungles; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR): (a) Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change does not have any specific information that some States have diverted and allotted the forest land to industrial units without prior permission/ clearance from the Central Government under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

(b) and (c) In view of reply to part (a) above, reply to parts (b) and (c) do not arise.

Concern for threat of climate change

1690. PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) the level of Government's concern for the threat of climate change; and
- (b) whether Government proposes to maintain balance between development and protection of environment and ecology giving priority to the safeguards for protecting the ecology which has already become fragile?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR): (a) and (b) Government of India recognises the threats of climate change and has taken proactive steps to ensure India's development path while protecting the environment and enhancing ecological sustainability. A National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) was launched on June 30, 2008 to address the urgent and critical concerns of the country. There are Eight National Missions which form the core of the NAPCC representing multi-pronged, long-term and integrated strategies on mitigation and adaptation for achieving key goals in the context of climate change and to pursue India's development objectives. Further, all States have also been requested to prepare State Action Plan on Climate Change consistent with objectives of NAPCC highlighting State's specific issues relating to climate change.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.