

50. Supporting a health insurance scheme for forest guards in Kaziranga Tiger Reserve.
51. Fostering a voluntary group “Friends for Rhino” for eliciting public support for rhino conservation with active local participation around Kaziranga Tiger Reserve.
52. Ascertaining progress of CBI investigation in rhino poaching cases handed over by the State of Assam.
53. Real Time Monitoring of funds released to Kaziranga Tiger Reserve from the Centre.
54. Initiative taken for collaboration with National Remote Sensing Agency (NRSA) towards evolving an alert system in tiger reserves prone to natural disasters.
55. A joint report with Nepal has been brought out on the assessment of tiger status in the terai arc landscape.
56. Initiative taken for collaboration of National Tiger Conservation Authority and Wildlife Crime Control Bureau towards an online tiger/wildlife crime tracking/ reporting system in tiger reserves.

Involvement of private sector in plantation activities

1625.SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had involved private sector in plantation activities to achieve the 33 per cent forest cover by 2012;

(b) if so, whether the State Governments have agreed to provide access of Government wasteland to private sector and if so, the details in this regard and the area covered by the private sector; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and the measures suggested by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR) : (a) to (c) The National Forest Policy, 1988 provides for the national goal of 33% of the country’s geographical area under forest and tree cover for maintaining ecological balance and environmental security of the country. As per the India State of Forest Report, 2013, the country’s forest and tree cover is 24.01% of geographical area. For achieving the remaining goal of around

9%, afforestation and tree planting is required on barren and other lands available for this purpose. Private sector is not involved in plantation activities on forest land, however, private sector is involved in plantation activities through Agroforestry and Farm Forestry on agriculture and other private lands. The Ministry has also issued guidelines to the State and UT Governments for liberalizing regulatory regime for felling and transit of trees grown on private lands to encourage private efforts.

Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme “National Afforestation Programme (NAP) Scheme” is being implemented for the purpose of regeneration of degraded forests and adjoining areas in the country through people’s participation. The scheme is being 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 level.

Death of birds occurred in Sukhna Lake

1626. SHRI AHMED PATEL : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that recently deaths of birds including migratory birds occurred in Sukhna Lake in Chandigarh and Sultanpur lake in Haryana and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the reasons for these deaths of birds, whether it was due to bird flu; and
- (c) the action that was taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR) : (a) to (c) As informed by the Chandigarh Administration, deaths of 12 resident ducks were reported in Sukhna lake. Subsequently, the sample of a dead duck was sent to the National Institute of High Security Animal Disease, Bhopal and was found positive for H5N1 virus. The Chandigarh Administration after confirmation of bird flu conducted culling operation and culled 110 resident ducks under the guidance of Joint Director, Northern Regional Disease Diagnostic Laboratory, Jalandhar, Punjab.

No death of migratory birds have been reported in the year 2014-15.

As informed by the State Government of Haryana, about 48 birds including Eurasian coot, Common moorhen and Lady grey Babbler were found dead in the month of January, 2015 in Sultanpur National Park, Haryana. The samples of dead birds and