

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

faecal dropping were sent to National Institute of High Security Animal Disease, Bhopal for medical examination which were found negative for Avian Influenza HPAI (H5N1) bird flu. While the samples were sent for examination, the State Government of Haryana closed the Park for the visitors and surveillance was increased in the Park and vicinity for observing the mortality, if any, in the area.

Recommendations of Gadgil Committee Report

1627. SHRI AVINASH PANDE : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state

(a) whether the recommendations of the Report of the Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel (Gadgil Committee Report) submitted to the Ministry in 2011 have been accepted by Government; and

(b) if so, the details and specifications of the recommendations which have been accepted and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR) : (a) and (b) The Government had constituted the Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel (WGEEP) under the Chairmanship of Prof. Madhav Gadgil on 4th March 2010. The major recommendations given in the WGEEP report, submitted to this Ministry in August 2011, *inter alia* relate to demarcation of ecologically sensitive zones in Western Ghats and measures for management of these ecologically sensitive zones. The Ministry undertook the consultation process by seeking comments/views of the concerned State Governments/Central Ministries and also inviting comments of other stakeholders on the WGEEP report.

Subsequently, the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change had constituted a High Level Working Group (HLWG) under the Chairmanship of Dr. K. Kasturirangan, the then Member (Science) of the erstwhile Planning Commission on 17th August, 2012 to *inter alia* examine the WGEEP Report in a holistic and multidisciplinary fashion keeping in view the comments received from the concerned State Governments/Central Ministries/Stakeholders. The HLWG submitted its report on 15th April 2013. The Ministry is examining and further processing the High Level Working Group report which is a subsequent report to the Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel report.