

for plastic waste management system to be set up by the municipal authorities for management of plastic waste generated in their jurisdictions. The State/ Union Territories have been requested to ensure compliance to these Rules.

Dubious degrees awarded by Forest Research Institutes

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

(a) whether Government has come to know about the cases of the dubious Ph.D. degree being awarded to Indian Forest Services (IFS) officers in the Forest Research Institute (FRI), if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Ministry has received any letter from the CAG mentioning the irregularities and corruption in the FRI or the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE); and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by Government in the said matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR) : (a) Ph.D. Degrees are awarded to scholars including the IFS officers as per norms and rules. Wherever, any irregularity/procedural lapse is found, suitable action is taken, In on such instance, Ph.D. degree awarded has been withdrawn.

(b) The CAG audit has pointed out some irregularities including those related to utilization of grants-in-aid for pension purposes, promotions and appointments and expenditure related to renovation etc.

(c) Steps taken by the Government include disciplinary proceedings, withdrawal of orders related to promotion in appropriate cases and framing of compendium of instructions for ensuring strict adherence to rules and regulations.

Comprehensive Environment Pollution Index

788. SHRI A. W. RABI BERNARD: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has 43 industrial clusters which are classified as critically polluted areas and 32 clusters as severely polluted areas on the basis of Comprehensive Environment Pollution Index and if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) the 'country's apex