

(d) the total forest cover of the State, year-wise from the year 2009 to 2014, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR): (a) and (b) The India State of Forest Report (ISFR) 2013 published biennially by Forest Survey of India, Dehradun provides information pertaining to Recorded Forest Areas and the Forest Cover State/UTs-wise. The forest cover includes all lands, one hectare and more in area, with a tree canopy density of 10 per cent or more irrespective of ownership and legal status. Such lands may not necessarily be a recorded forest area. It also includes orchards, bamboo and palm. The Recorded Forest Area of Goa is 1225 square kilometers which has been classified into Reserve Forest (253 square kilometres) and Unclassed Forest (972 square kilometres). In addition, there are also private forests spread over an area of 42.42 square kilometres.

(c) The Laws applicable to Reserve Forests and Unclassed Forests are Indian Forest Act, 1927, Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 and Forest Conservation Act, 1980 whereas laws applicable to private forests are Forest Conservation Act, 1980 and Goa Preservation of Trees Act, 1984.

(d) As per India State of Forest Reports published by Forest Survey of India, Dehradun, the forest cover for the last three assessment years is as under:

Year	Forest Cover in Square Kilometres
2009	2151
2011	2219
2013	2219

#### **Use of wildlife for cultural and religious practices**

1153. SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has plans to make a distinction between the 'use of wildlife for cultural and religious practices' and 'hunting', if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether a list, sanctioning cultural activities that warrant wildlife use, has been prepared, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether a list of animals who can be killed or captured for cultural and religious reasons has been prepared, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR): (a) The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has received representations from peoples' representatives and citizens for consideration of granting permission for capture of snakes during the festival of 'Nagpanchami'. This involves amendment to the provisions of Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 which is under way. No final decision for use of wildlife for cultural and religious practices and for 'hunting' has been taken in the Ministry.

(b) and (c) No, Sir.

**Projects falling under tiger reserve**

1154. SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Board for Wildlife has cleared any projects in the last six months, if so, the details there of;

(b) whether any of the projects fall under the tiger reserves in the country or are close to 10 kilometre area of a wildlife sanctuary, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) out of cleared projects, how many projects were commercial or private projects and how many were public projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR): (a) National Board for Wildlife in its Standing Committee meetings cleared 81 projects in the past six months, *i.e.*, from January, 2015 till date. The details of the projects are given in the Statement (*See* below).

(b) and (c) Out of the projects cleared, 9 projects fall under the Tiger Reserves and 27 projects are close to 10 km area of wildlife sanctuaries. Out of the cleared projects, 20 are private projects and 61 are public projects. Details are given in the Statement.