

obtain prior approval of Central Government under Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for use of 6,1863 hectares of forest land for construction of Almora Ghat to Kalauta Motor Road was submitted by the Government of Uttarakhand to the Regional Office (North Eastern Zone) of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change located at Dehradun on 26.06.2015. The Regional Office, after scrutiny of the proposal observed certain shortcomings in the proposal. The Regional Office *vide* letter dated 03.07.2015 communicated the shortcomings to the Government of Uttarakhand. After receipt of reply from the State Government *vide* their letter dated 19.08.2015, the proposal was placed before the Regional Empowered Committee (REC) in its meeting held on 27.08.2015. The REC after examination of the proposal decided to accord in-principle approval under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of the said forest land subject to submission of documents/information on four points. The State Government *vide* letter dated 18.09.2015 submitted the information/documents sought by the REC. A copy of these documents was however uploaded on the web portal on 03.11.2015. After scrutiny of the information/documents received from the State Government, it was found that the enclosures of the certificate regarding settlement of rights in accordance with the provisions of the Scheduled Tribes and other traditional forest dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 on the forest land proposed to be diverted submitted by the State Government do not pertain to the afore mentioned project but for some other road. Regional Office, Dehradun *vide* letter dated 20.11.2015 requested the Government of Uttarakhand to submit a copy of these enclosures for the afore mentioned road. In-principle approval for, diversion of the said forest land will be accorded by the Regional Office after afore mentioned enclosures are received by them from the Government of Uttarakhand.

Emission level of Volkswagen cars

1629. SHRI DEVENDER GOUD T.: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Automotive Research Association of India has found variations in on-road emission levels in several diesel and petrol models of Volkswagen cars;

(b) whether it is also a fact that a notice has been issued to the company to explain the reasons behind such variations; and

(c) if so, the details of reasons explained by the company and to what extent they are in compliance with emission norms of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR): (a) Automotive Research Association of India (ARAI) has carried out laboratory and on-road tests on diesel vehicles manufactured by Volkswagen group of companies in India. The purpose of the tests was to find out whether the Indian manufactured cars are also affected by the global disclosure by Volkswagen.

(b) Based on the results of these tests, ARAI has issued notice to Volkswagen, Seeking their action plan for Indian vehicles.

(c) The Volkswagen company, in response, has announced the recall of all affected vehicles.

Steps taken to deal with global warming

†1630. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of those areas of the country which are apprehended to face the threat of global warming; and

(b) the measures taken or proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR): (a) India's large population depends upon climate sensitive agriculture and forestry sectors for its livelihood. According to India's Second National Communication submitted to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in 2012, there may not be significant decrease in the monsoon rainfall in the future except in some parts of the southern peninsula. Simulations indicate increase in the rainfall intensity in the 21st Century over most of the regions and marginal decrease in the intensity for the east peninsular region.

The report by the Indian Network for Climate Change Assessment (INCCA) 'Climate Change and India: 4x4 Assessment- A Sectoral and Regional Analysis for 2030s' presents an assessment of the impacts of climate change on four climate sensitive regions of India, namely, the Himalayan region, the North-Eastern region, the Western Ghats and the Coastal regions on four key sectors of the economy that are climate dependent, namely, agriculture, water, natural eco-systems and biodiversity, and human health. The study projects an overall warming, increase in precipitation with variable

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.