

(c) and (d) As per the provisions of the Guidelines issued by the Central Government under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 *in lieu* of forest area approved for such developmental activities, the user agency is required to raise compensatory afforestation, as the case may be, either over equivalent non-forest land or degraded forest land, double in extent to the forest area approved under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. In general, private project proponents give equivalent non-forest land and it is transferred and mutated as forest land. Further to increase the percentage of land under FOREST in the country, afforestation Programme is taken up under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes such as National Afforestation Programme (NAP), Green India Mission (GIM), Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) which from 2015-16 has been amalgamated as the Watershed Development Component of the “Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY)”. National Bamboo Mission (NBM) and under Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA), different State Plan/ Non-Plan Schemes including Externally Aided Projects. National Afforestation Programme (NAP) of the Ministry of Environment and FOREST is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for afforestation and tree plantation and eco-restoration of degraded FOREST and adjoining areas in the country.

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 levels. An amount of ₹ 3598.42 crore has been invested to treat an area of 21,23,142 hectare since inception of the scheme in 2000-02. Further, the Green India Mission aims at increasing the forest/tree cover by 5 million hectare as well as, increasing the quality of the existing forest cover in another 5 million hectare.

Elimination of fossil fuel subsidies

2444. SHRI K. R. ARJUNAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India had opposed the proposed move for eliminating fossil fuel subsidies at the G-20 summit: and

(b) if so, the details of the rationale behind it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR): (a) India stands committed to rationalize and phase out inefficient fossil fuel subsidies that encourage wasteful consumption, over the medium term, recognizing the need to support the poor. However no specific deadline has been agreed to.

(b) India has taken steps particularly in the last 2 years to eliminate subsidies in fossil fuels (petrol and diesel) and increased taxes on them turning a carbon subsidy regime into one of carbon taxation. In our effort to rationalise and target subsidies, India has launched 'Direct Benefit Transfer Scheme' for cooking gas, where subsidy is being transferred directly into the bank accounts of targeted beneficiaries. Our "Give It Up" campaign has found acceptance by about 4 million consumers enabling the reduction on a 1:1 manner with firewood stoves. Thus India is reforming energy pricing within the country and rationalising fossil fuel consumption.

Contribution of diesel vehicles to air pollution of Delhi

2445. SHRI DILIP KUMAR TIRKEY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has taken note of alarming rise in air pollution in recent months in Delhi;

(b) whether any study has been done to ascertain the cause behind such a steep rise in air pollution;

(c) whether it is a fact that the growing numbers of diesel vehicles on NCR roads is a major contributor to this menace; and

(d) if so, the action Government proposes to take to tackle the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR): (a) Central Pollution Control Board has reported that in the month of November 2015 and first ten days of December, 2015 Air Quality Index varied from poor, very poor to severe.

(b) Air pollution depends on prevailing meteorological conditions including wind direction, wind speed, mixing height, temperature variation, etc. The high level of air pollution in Delhi is mainly because of particulate matter (PM), while sulphur dioxide (SO₂), benzene and ozone are within the limits during the month of November, 2015 (24 hourly averages). Oxides of Nitrogen (NO_x) is showing mixed trends. The prominent sources of Particulate Matter (PM) emissions in Delhi include road dust re-suspension, vehicular exhaust emissions, air traffic, railways, construction activities, gensets, biomass and municipal solid waste burning, industrial emissions including from power plants.

A Source Apportionment Study (SAS) for PM₁₀ (dust) was conducted by Central Pollution Control Board during 2007-2010 in association with leading institutes. In respect of Delhi, the percentage contribution from various sources is as under:-