

| 1               | 2                      | 3 | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  |
|-----------------|------------------------|---|----|----|----|----|----|
| <b>Agra</b>     |                        |   |    |    |    |    |    |
| 1.              | Kamla Nagar            | R | -  | -  | 81 | 92 | 94 |
| 2.              | Arjun Nagar            | R | -  | -  | -  | -  | 87 |
| <b>Vadodara</b> |                        |   |    |    |    |    |    |
| 1.              | Fatehgunj              | C | 76 | 81 | 76 | 77 | 77 |
| 2.              | M.S. University Campus | S | 66 | 65 | 72 | 74 | 64 |
| 3.              | Harinagar              | R | 88 | 82 | 78 | 73 | 80 |
| <b>Kolkata</b>  |                        |   |    |    |    |    |    |
| 1.              | North Kolkata          | R | 96 | 78 | 74 | 71 | 90 |
| 2.              | South Kolkata          | S | 91 | 71 | 67 | 64 | 90 |
| <b>Shillong</b> |                        |   |    |    |    |    |    |
| 1.              | Lower Moti Nagar       | R | -  | 71 | -  | 71 | 49 |
| 2.              | Upper Mawprem          | C | -  | 88 | 86 | 84 | 88 |
| 3.              | Fire Brigade           | R | -  | -  | 72 | -  | -  |
| 4.              | Assam Bazar            | C | -  | -  | -  | 86 | -  |

*Note :* (-) Indicates data not available.

### Commercialization of GM crops

1789. PROF. M.V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) what is the Ministry's stand on commercialization of Genetically Modified crops, the details in this regard;
- (b) which GM crops have been approved and which ones have not; and
- (c) the rationale therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR): (a) Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC), an expert body under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) is following a case by case assessment of Genetically Modified (GM) crops which takes into account concerns related to safety, efficacy, stability and agronomic performance of the GM seeds for which extensive rules and guidelines have been framed. Only those GM crops which are found to be safe for environment and human consumption are approved for environmental release.

(b) and (c) Bt cotton is the only GM crop approved for commercial cultivation in India since 2002. Bt cotton expressing 'Cry' proteins has an inherent property to control

lepidopteran pests (bollworms) thereby reducing the requirement of pesticides sprays and savings in bolls.

#### **Afforestation projects**

1790. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is implementing any afforestation projects and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the details of funds spent by Government for implementation of these projects in each State including Odisha;
- (c) to what extent the afforestation projects have achieved their objectives; and
- (d) whether afforestation activities have been reduced to mere eyewash in the country due to lack of monitoring efforts by Government and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Environment and Forest is implementing the National Afforestation Programme (NAP) scheme for afforestation of degraded forests in the country through people's participation. The scheme is implemented through the State Forest Development Agency (SFDA) at the State level, Forest Development Agency (FDA) at the forest division level and the Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMCs) at the village level. The details of funds released to States including Odisha are given in the Statement-I (*See below*). Besides, the CAMPA Bill is also with the Parliament which provides for a release of about ₹ 40,000 crore of CAMPA corpus funds to the States to *inter-alia*, give a massive thrust to afforestation activity including compensatory afforestation in the country.

(c) The NAP scheme has been reviewed in the past which *inter-alia* revealed that it has contributed to forest cover increase in the country by giving thrust to the afforestation activity and has been successful in mobilizing people's participation in forest management and development. The scheme has also contributed in providing employment opportunity to the local people and reducing forest dependency among the vulnerable groups.

(d) No, the operational guidelines of NAP provide for an in-built multi-level monitoring by State Forest Department and third party evaluation through Ministry, SFDA and FDA. Further, no plantation site is approved without corresponding geo-coordinates to facilitate monitoring by Remote Sensing and Geographical Information System.