Pedigree dogs abandoned by owners

845. DR. CHANDAN MITRA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has seen the recent reports regarding foreign origin pedigree dogs being abandoned by their owners in large numbers;
- (b) if so, whether Government is considering to set up more shelters for abandoned foreign origin dogs, so that they can be put up there for the purpose of adoption by other interested persons later, and if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken by Government to regulate the sale of foreign origin pedigree dogs by pet shop owners?

[†] From scat DNA.

^{*} From camera trap data and scat DNA.

Unstarred Questions

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR): (a) Yes. Sir. Reports regarding foreign origin pedigree dogs being abandoned by their owners have come to the notice through the reports published in certain newspapers.

(b) and (c) Government is already implementing the "Scheme for Provision of Shelter Houses for looking after the animals" including abandoned dogs and encouraging setting up of more shelters in the country to take care of abandoned and ownerless animals in general. Accordingly, some Animal Welfare Organizations and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) do take care of injured and abandoned animals including pedigree dogs wherever possible for providing treatment and arranging their adoption by interested persons as and when possible.

Incidents of forest fires

846. SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether various incidents of breaking out of fire in forests are increasing in various parts of the country due to which valuable medicinal plants are damaged and adjoining human habitations are also endangered;
 - (b) if so, the details of such incidents;
- (c) whether any steps have been taken by Government to check recurrence of such incidents and effective measures taken to extinguish the said fire immediately without harming the property, cattle and human beings; and
 - (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR): (a) and (b) As per the report received from Forest Survey of India, the details of incidents of forest fires that have been reported in the country during the last three years and the current year are given in Statement (*See* below). The details of damage caused to medicinal plants and adjoining human habitations are not maintained at the level of Ministry.

(c) and (d) Measures to extinguish forest fire immediately are taken by the respective State Governments and the details of the same are not maintained at the level of the Ministry. However, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has formulated a Contingency Plan for dealing with forest fires which details the mechanism for coordination during the crisis of a major forest fire. The said plan provides for Crisis