

(c) if not, the details of reasons for delay and the progress made, so far, in terms of meetings held and stakeholders consulted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR): (a) to (c) No, Sir. The process of drafting the National Forest Policy is not complete. So far 7-8 number of National and regional level stakeholders meetings, Community level Focus Group Discussions (FGD) and Consultation meetings with Experts have been held.

#### **Forest area**

†1632. SHRI R. K. SINHA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) what percentage of the total land of the country is the forest area;

(b) the details of percentage by which forest land has dwindled year-wise since 1950 to 2015; and

(c) whether Government intends to plant trees on unused land along both sides of national highways and railway tracks to boost forestation in the country and if so, the action-plan thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR): (a) As per India State of Forest Report-2015, the total forest cover of the country is 7,01,673 square kilometers which is 21.34% of the total geographical area of the country.

(b) Forest Survey of India (FSI), Dehradun has been carrying out the assessment of forest cover of the country using remote sensing technology since 1987 biennially and the findings are published in Reports. So far, 14 Reports have been published. Earlier the reports were titled as State of Forest Report but since 2009 these reports have been renamed as India State of Forest Report (ISFR). Over the years since 1987, forest cover has shown an increase from 19.49% to 21.34% of country's geographical area. The details are given in the Statement (*See below*).

(c) As per information provided by Ministry of Road, Transport and Highways, the recently launched Green Highways (Plantation, Transplantation, Beautification and Maintenance) Policy-2015 promotes plantation of trees along National Highways turfing with grasses, shrub/herb and planting on medians/special landscapes/embankment slopes. Further, Ministry of Railways in consultation with Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has finalized a model agreement between Zonal Railway

---

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

and State Forest Departments for plantation on railway land along the railway track. Recently, Northern Railway has entered into agreement with Government of Punjab and Government of Haryana for plantation on railway land along side railway track.

***Statement***

*The details of increase in forest cover in country's geographical area since 1987*

(Area in square kilometer)

State of Forest Report/ India State of Forest Report*	Forest Cover	Percentage of forest cover to the total geographical area
1987	6,40,819	19.49
1989	6,38,804	19.43
1991	6,39,364	19.45
1993	6,39,386	19.45
1995	6,38,879	19.43
1997	6,33,397	19.27
1999	6,37,293	19.39
2001	6,53,898	19.89
2003	6,77,816	20.62
2005	6,90,171	21.00
2009	6,92,394	21.06
2011	6,92,027	21.05
2013	6,97,898	21.23
2015	7,01,673	21.34

\*State of Forest Report (SFR) renamed as India State of Forest Report (ISFR) in 2009.

**Endangered natural world heritages**

1633. DR. KANWAR DEEP SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a recent WWF survey has put several natural world heritages on the brink of being endangered/extinct;

(b) if so, the details thereof, along with the names of the major ones;

(c) what its implications would be; and