

identification ecologically sensitive areas on scientific basis. However, the States were advised to also resolve the apprehensions/concerns expressed by various stakeholders of Western Ghats from time to time.

Concession to projects of Uttarakhand under Forest (Conservation) Act

†31. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) the names of projects of Uttarakhand received by the Ministry to provide concession to them under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980;
- (b) whether all such projects have been sanctioned; and
- (c) if not, the names of projects which were not given sanction together with the details thereof along with the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR): (a) to (c) There is no provision of any sort for concession in obtaining prior approval of Central Government regarding diversion of forest land for non-forest purposes under the provision of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and the guidelines issued there under. Hence, no proposal was received from Uttarakhand to provide concession under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. However, the total 326 proposals were received online for diversion of forest land since 1.1.2015 to till date. Out of which, 72 proposals were granted in-principle (Stage-I) approval, 2 projects were granted final (stage- II) approvals and one project was rejected. At present 20 project proposals are in process in the regional office Dehradun of MOEF and CC. 231 project proposals are pending with the State Government for submission of requisite documents.

Phasing out of outlived trees

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

- (a) whether there is any guidelines about phasing out and replacing old outlived trees;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is a fact that old trees become 'net Carbon dioxide generators' after a certain age; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.