THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR): (a) the area where compensatory afforestation has been undertaken in the country upto 31.3.2015 in lieu of diversion of forest land under the provisions of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 including projects for construction of roads in different parts of the country, is 6,87,809 ha against a stipulation of 8,60,791 ha, which represents 80% achievement of the targets.

(b) and (c) It is true that artificial afforestation carried out under compensatory afforestation provisions of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 cannot substitute natural forests, yet, keeping in view the imperatives of development, and the crucial role played by development projects including highways in the process of development, permission for diversion of forest land is granted under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 only in cases where diversion of forest land is inevitable. Compensatory afforestation is undertaken to minimize the loss of impact of forest diversion in due course of time.

**Toxicity of air in Delhi and NCR**

40. SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that air in Delhi and its NCR region is getting more and more toxic putting in dangers the health of citizens of Delhi and its NCR areas;

(b) if so, what is the status of this menace; and

(c) what is the action plan of Government to address this issue seriously?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR): (a) and (b) The ambient air quality is being regularly monitored in respect of Sulphur Dioxide ($SO^2$), Nitrogen Dioxide (NO2) and Particulate Matter less than or equal to 10 micron ($PM^{10}$) in Delhi and NCR by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) in association with State Pollution Control Boards of Haryana, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh, Delhi Pollution Control Committee and National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEER1) under the National Air Monitoring Programme (NAMP).

The analysis of AAQ data of Delhi for the period 2000 to 2015 reveals that $SO^2$ levels are within National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) of 50 ±g/mˆ (annual standard) and shows decreasing trend during 2000 to 2015. The levels of $NO^2$ exceed the NAAQS of 40 ug/m (annual standard) except for year 2000 and shows increasing

trend during 2000 and 2015. The levels of $PM^{10}$ is also exceeded the NAAQS of 60 ±g/mˆ (annual standard) during 2000 to 2015 and shows fluctuating trend. Level of $PM^{2.5}$ exceeded the NAAQS of 40 ±g/mˆ (annual standard) during 2010 to 2015 and shows increasing trend.

The AAQ data of NCR for the period 2013, 2014 and 2015 reveals that concentration of $SO^2$ is well below the NAAQS, whereas concentration of $NO^2$ is reported more than the NAAQS and shows fluctuating trend. The concentration of Particulate Matter ($PM^{10}$) in most of these cities is more than NAAQS and shows increasing trend.

No peer reviewed conclusive study report is available directly linking pollutants with the health of citizens. However, the air pollution is known to be one of the aggravating factors for many respiratory ailments and cardiovascular diseases. Other factors are inhaling/ingestion of bacteria, virus, mites, moulds, fungi, spores, pollen grains etc.

(c) The steps taken by the Government to, control air pollution in Delhi and NCR inter alia include the following:-

(i) Notification of National Ambient Air Quality Standards envisaging 12 pollutants;

(ii) Formulation of environmental regulations/statutes;

(iii) Setting up of monitoring network for assessment of ambient air quality;

(iv) Introduction of cleaner/alternate fuels like gaseous fuel (CNG, LPG etc.), ethanol blend etc.;

(v) Promotion of cleaner production processes.

Taking note of the gravity of Air Pollution, the Government has taken some more measures which include:

(i) Launched National Air Quality index by the Prime Minister in April, 2015;

(ii) Implementation of Bharat Stage IV (BS-IV) norms in 63 selected cities including Delhi/cities of NCR and universalization of BS-IV by 2017;

(iii) Decision taken to leapfrog directly from BS-IV to BS-VI fuel standards by 1st April, 2020;

(iv) Comprehensive amendments to various Waste Management Rules including Municipal Solid Waste, Plastic Waste, Hazardous Waste, Bio-medical Waste and Electronic Waste notified;

(v) Notification of Construction and Demolition Waste Management Rules;

(vi) Ban on burning of leaves, biomass, municipal solid waste;

(vii) Promotion of public transport network of metro, buses, e-rickshaws and promotion of car pooling, Pollution Under Control, lane discipline, vehicle maintenance;

(viii) Revision of existing environmental standards and formulation of new standards for prevention and control of pollution from industries;

(ix) Regular co-ordination meetings at official and ministerial level with Delhi and other State Governments within the NCR;

(x) Issuance of directions under Section 5 of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and under Section 18(1)(b) of Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981;

(xi) Installation of on-line continuous (24x7) monitoring devices by major industries.

**Pollution in Rajasthan**

†41. SHRI NARAYAN LAL PANCHARIYA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) the position of Rajasthan among the most polluted States of the country;

(b) whether Government has provided any financial assistance to check the increasing pollution in the State and if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of forest land in that State, district-wise and whether Government has formulated any scheme for plantation on the said land; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the amount provided to the State Government for this purpose during the last year and the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR): (a) and (b) The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) along with State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs) is assessing the status of pollution in states based on ambient air and water quality including state of Rajasthan. The Ambient Air Quality (AAQ) is being monitored at 6 locations covering cities namely Alwar, Bhiwadi, Jaipur, Jodhpur, Kota and Udaipur in Rajasthan and water quality is being monitored at 123 locations covering 17 rivers, 16

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.