

Productivity of Indian forest

1967. DR. VIKAS MAHATME: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether productivity of Indian forests is very low;
- (b) whether growing awareness about environmental degradation has forced us to look at forest wealth as a protective agent for environment rather than a commercial commodity;
- (c) whether there is any policy to grow commercial forests and maintain the balance between commercial and environmental outlook towards forests; and
- (d) if so, the statistics of growth in commercial forestry, year-wise during the last five years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE): (a) As per available information productivity of Indian forests is low compared to other developed countries. As per the FAO's India Forestry Outlook Study Report 2009, the mean annual increment of India's forests is assessed to be 0.5 cubic meter per hectare per year as against the world average of about 2 cubic meter per hectare per year.

(b) The objectives of National Forest Policy 1988 *inter-alia* provide for maintenance of environmental stability through preservation and, where necessary, restoration of the ecological balance that has been adversely disturbed by serious depletion of the forests of the country.

(c) and (d) The National Forest Policy 1988 does not provide for raising of commercial forests in natural forest areas. The said policy prescribes that the forest-based industry should raise the raw material needed for meeting its own requirements, preferably by establishment of a direct relationship between the factory and the individuals who can grow the raw material by supporting the individual with inputs including credit, constant technical advice and finally harvesting and transport services. Farmers, particularly small and marginal farmers would be encouraged to grow, on marginal/ degraded lands available with them, wood species required for industries.

Diversion of forests in Nagpur

1968. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Maharashtra Government has requested for the diversion of 564.00 hectares of forest land under section 2 (ii) and 2 (iii) of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for development of proposed International Standard Zoo Safari and Wildlife Rescue Centre at Gorewada, Nagpur; and

(b) if so, Government's response thereto and by when it would be cleared/sanctioned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The proposal is being processed in this Ministry as per the provisions of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

Widespread drought in forests

1969. SHRI K. SOMAPRASAD: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government noticed the widespread drought in forests, especially in Western Ghats; and

(b) if so, the details and measures Government is planning to take to tackle the issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE): (a) and (b) No such report regarding widespread drought in forests, especially in Western Ghats has been received. Therefore, no specific measures are planned.

CEA recommendations on setting up of new thermal power plants

†1970. SHRI VIVEK K. TANKHA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry is aware of the report submitted by the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) containing recommendations for not setting up any new thermal power plant till the year 2022;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that despite this report, the Ministry has recommended setting up of new thermal power plants of about 17,000 megawatt; and

(c) if so, whether it is not a deviation from Government's commitment of achieving the targets of climate change?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.