

(i) utilisation of plastic waste in road construction, (ii) Co-processing of plastic waste in Cement Kilns, (iii) Conversion of plastic waste into liquid RDF (Oil) and (iv) Disposal of plastic waste through Plasma Pyrolysis Technology (PPT).

District level data on environmental health

1333. SHRI K. R. ARJUNAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government would begin a five years exercise to compute district level data on the country's environmental health;

(b) whether it is also a fact that a pilot project is set to begin this September in 54 districts;

(c) whether it is also a fact that this is the first time when such a national environment survey is being undertaken;

(d) whether it is also a fact that the number would eventually be used to calculate every States' green gross domestic products; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) to (e) Under the ongoing Environmental Information System (ENVIS) Scheme of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, it is proposed to carry out a National Environment Survey covering various parameters like flora, fauna, pollution, waste inventory mapping, etc. The National Environment Survey is being undertaken for the first time by the Central Government in India. For 2018-19, 55 districts have been identified for conducting the Survey. The data/information/maps flowing from the survey would contribute significantly towards valuation of eco-system services at district, State and national levels and arriving at their respective green gross domestic product.

Emission level of old power plants

1334. SHRI K. R. ARJUNAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has a plan in place wherein from 2019 onward and by 2022, emission levels of all old power plants would be brought to national standards;

(b) whether it is also a fact that some old plants may be closed and rest will be retrofitted;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government had in 2015 notified the new standards and set the deadline of December, 2017 in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) and (b) Directions have been issued by Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) to all Thermal Power plants (other than captive power plants) for compliance with laid down norms by 2022, besides consideration of phasing out of some old plants.

(c) and (d) Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has notified new emission standards for Thermal Power Plants (TPPs) *vide* S.O.3305 (E) dated 07.12.2015 with respect to Sulphur dioxide (SO₂), Oxides of Nitrogen (NOx), and Particulate Matter (PM) etc.

Changes in forest cover

†1335. MS. SAROJ PANDEY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any change in the forest cover of the country has been recorded during last three years as compared to earlier position;

(b) if so, whether forest cover has increased or decreased, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the efforts being made by Government to establish environmental balance in case the forest cover has decreased?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) and (b) Forest Survey of India, Dehradun, carries out the assessment of forest cover of the country biennially and the findings are published in India State of Forest Report (ISFR). As per the latest report *i.e.* ISFR- 2017, the total forest and tree cover in the country is 8,02,088 square kilometers which is 24.39% of the geographical area of the country. There is an increase of 8021 square kilometer of total forest and tree cover compared to that of ISFR-2015.

(c) To further increase the forest cover in the country, afforestation programmes are being taken up under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes such as National Afforestation Programme (NAP) and Green India Mission (GIM) being implemented

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.