Development of green cities

*260. SHRI KUMAR KETKAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state the status of development of green cities in India?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (DR. HARSH VARDHAN): There is no scheme with the name of 'Development of Green Cities in India'. However, the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy under its scheme, Development of Solar Cities, had approved 60 Solar Cities projects including 13 Pilot and 5 Model Cities upto 12th Five Year Plan (2012-17) period. The "Development of Solar Cities" programme aimed at minimum 10 per cent reduction in projected demand of conventional energy at the end of five years, which can be achieved through a combination of energy efficiency measures while enhancing supply from renewable energy sources. The Ministry assisted Municipal Corporations and Urban Local Bodies in preparation of a master plan for increasing energy efficiency and renewable energy supply in the city, setting-up institutional arrangements for the implementation of the Master Plan and awareness generation and capacity building activities. The scheme was valid upto 12th Five Year Plan Period *i.e.* 31.03.2017. The Master Plan of 50 Solar Cities has been prepared.

Environmental impact of Ahmedabad-Mumbai High Speed Rail

*261. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a)   the area of forest land, including mangroves, that would be lost, due to the construction of Ahmedabad-Mumbai High Speed Rail, location-wise;

(b)   details of environmental clearances given to projects by Ministry;

(c)   details of steps proposed to be taken to compensate for the environmental loss;

(d)   details of consultations with the locals, to convey the impact of project to them;

(e)   the details of concerns voiced out by the people in these consultations; and

(f)   details of steps proposed to be taken to address those concerns?