

countries and whether the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), has adopted in 2005, the objective of mitigating impact of climate change through reducing greenhouse gas emissions to net zero through enhanced forest management in developing countries;

(b) number of States in India taking advantage of United Nations, REDD; and

(c) the manner in which Government is helping drought prone and deprived areas especially tribals of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) to (c) Reducing Emission from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD) in developing countries was first introduced in United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in the 11th Conference of Parties (COP 11) in 2005, as a climate change mitigation option to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation. The concept of "forest conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries" was added later and the concept is now collectively referred as REDD+. The Warsaw Framework for Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+) was adopted by UNFCCC in the 19th Conference of Parties (COP 19) held at Warsaw in 2013. The Warsaw Framework for REDD+ builds on previous relevant decisions adopted at COP11, COP13, COP15, COP16, COP17 and COP 18. It is a mechanism developed by Parties, which provides result-based finance for outcomes of implementation of REDD+ activities.

Complying to the UNFCCC decision, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India has prepared and released National REDD+ Strategy in August 2018 for implementation of REDD+ activities in the One Khasi Hills REDD+ Project from Meghalaya has been registered with Plan Vivo (a voluntary carbon standard) and earning carbon credits outside UNFCCC. Implementation of REDD+ activities will help ensuring sustainable livelihood of forest dependent population by incentivizing their conservation efforts for enhancement of carbon stock.

Disappearance of hillocks from the Aravali range

2762. SHRI JOSE K. MANI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the disappearance of hillocks from the Aravali range and the number of hillocks that have disappeared so far;

(b) if so, the reasons of the disappearances thereof; and

(c) whether Government has taken any steps to stop the oldest mountain range from disappearing and its conservation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) to (c) As per information provided by Department of Mines and Geology, Government of Rajasthan, excavation of minerals from hillocks results in leveling of ground and the Forest Survey of India (FSI) has observed that in Alwar district 31 hillocks have disappeared. The State Government of Haryana informed that no hillocks from the Aravali Range have disappeared due to mining operation undertaken illegally.

As per section 23C of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) (MMDR) Act, 1957, State Governments have been empowered to make rules for preventing illegal mining, transportation and storage of minerals.

Further, for protection of Aravali ranges the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) has issued a Notification on 07.05.1992 as amended from time to time. The MoEF&CC has also delegated powers to State Governments to take measures for protecting and improving the quality of the environment and preventing, controlling and abating environmental pollution. The State Governments of Haryana and Rajasthan have been directed to constitute Expert Committee and Monitoring Committee, under the chairmanship of the District Collector concerned. Further, the District Collectors of Gurgaon in Haryana and Alwar in Rajasthan have been authorised by the respective State Governments to take necessary action under section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 in respect of cases where project proponents fail to implement the required safeguards.

Impact of oil spill

2763. SHRI G.C. CHANDRASHEKHAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether oil spill has polluted fragile coastal ecology and marine biodiversity;

(b) if so, the details along with ecological environmental impacts thereof and steps taken to clean up the damaged coast;

(c) whether oil spillage also affect mangroves and the fishermen;