

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?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (DR. HARSH VARDHAN): (a) to (f) Due to the construction of Ahmedabad -Mumbai High Speed Rail, the total forest area that would be lost, including mangrove forest, is as follows:

Sl. No.	Taluka	Protected, Reserved and Private Forest (area in ha)	Mangrove Forest (area in ha)	Total forest (area in ha)
1.	Thane	16.1196	12.3244	28.444
2.	Vasai	22.2922	1.4775	23.7697
3.	Bhiwandi	0.08828	10.3351	10.42338
4.	Palghar	34.1912	0	34.1912
5.	Dahanu	29.0578	0	29.0578
6.	Talasari	5.4155	0	5.4155
TOTAL		107.1646	24.137	131.3016

No proposal for this project has been received in this Ministry so far. Further, railway projects are not covered within the ambit of Environmental Impact Assessment Notification, 2006, hence do not require prior environment clearance.

As far as forest clearance is concerned, amount towards compensatory afforestation for the loss of forest land is levied and also for the loss of ecosystem services, net present value is levied from the user agency.

Aadhaar linking for MGNREGA

*262. SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Aadhaar linking for MGNREGA enrolments has been mandated, if so, reasons therefor;

(b) total number and percentage of workers who linked their Aadhaar numbers to job cards and whether this has benefited the scheme and if so, details thereof;

(c) whether Government is providing and promoting an Aadhaar opt-out option, if so, progress made thereof;

(d) if not, reasons therefor; and