

Plantation of trees along National Highways

940. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR GUPTA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that illegal encroachments near the National Highways have made it difficult to implement the policy of plantation of trees along the National Highways;
- (b) if so, steps being taken to effectively implement this policy;
- (c) whether the Ministry has taken up this issue with the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways; and
- (d) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI BABUL SUPRIYO): (a) and (b) Plantation of trees along national highways is mainly done by National Highway Authority of India (NHAI), Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH). As informed by NHAI, MoRTH, road-side and avenue plantation is done as per the codal provisions of Indian Roads Congress (IRC: SP: 21-2009) and Green Highways Policy, 2015 on available Right of Way (ROW). As and when any encroachment is noticed within the NHAI ROW, action is taken to remove the same.

Further, NHAI has constituted a task force, consisting a team of three officers, to remove any unauthorized construction and illegal encroachments within NHAI ROW.

(c) and (d) Questions does not arise, as the ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has not received any communication relating to issues of difficulty in implementation of policy of plantation of trees along national highways due to encroachments near national highways.

Purchase of army's disposal vehicles for the Members

†941. SHRI AJAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of Members of Parliament who had applied to purchase Army's disposal vehicles during the last two years;
- (b) the number of Members of Parliament for whom it was made available and the depots from where these were purchased;
- (c) whether the Members of Parliament got the vehicle from the same depot from where they were requested or were made available from some other depot as well, as whether they have got the vehicles or not; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.