

environmental impacts would be significant. However, HLWG has not proposed a complete ban on the construction of hydropower projects in the ESA.

NOC for strengthening of roads under forest area

†991. SHRI SAMIR ORAON: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state whether Government has any proposals under its consideration for simplification of the process of issuance of No-Objection Certificate for standardizing and strengthening of the roads falling under forest area?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI BABUL SUPRIYO): The Ministry has permitted for black topping and bituminous work of forest roads which has been brought under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) subject to fulfillment of certain conditions. However, there is no specific proposal in the Ministry for simplification of the process of issuance of No-Objection Certificate for standardizing and strengthening of the roads falling under forest area.

Green Bonus for States

†992. SHRIANIL BALUNI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has any scheme to give rewards *viz.* Green Bonus to the States which are working well in the field of environment conservation; and
- (b) if not, whether Government proposes to launch any such scheme in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI BABUL SUPRIYO): (a) and (b) There is no scheme to give rewards *viz.* Green Bonus to the States which are working well in the field of environment conservation in the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC). However, considering that a large forest cover provides huge ecological benefits, but, there is also an opportunity cost in terms of area not available for other economic activities and this also serves as an important indicator of fiscal disability, 14th Finance Commission (award period 2015-16 to 2019-20) has assigned, inter alia 7.5 per cent weight to the forest cover taking into account the share of each state in total moderate and very dense forests in the horizontal sharing among states of the net proceeds from tax collections by the Union to the states.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.