

Eastern Region. As part of the National Communications, the Ministry conducted studies on impact of climate change in India which are summarized in the 'Vulnerability Assessment and Adaptation' chapters. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) under National Innovations on Climate Resilient Agriculture (NICRA) Project has also carried out studies on the impacts of climate change on agriculture. These studies have indicated variable impact on temperature; precipitation; crops like rice, wheat, coconut, apple, maize and sorghum and livestock productivity in agriculture sector; composition and net primary productivity of forests; and transmission windows for vector borne diseases under different climate change scenarios.

Enforcement of regulatory requirements

3209. SHRI K.R. ARJUNAN : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that by not improving the enforcement of regulator requirements to safeguard the environment and interest of local communities, has resulted in an increased number of cases related to land conflicts in recent years;

(b) whether there are 665 projects with an area of 24 lakh hectares and an estimated investment of ₹ 13 lakh crore that are affecting 734 lakh people;

(c) whether Government has not undertaken necessary reforms and has not opted for institutional strengthening to improve the environmental clearance process to safeguard the environment and community interests; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI BABUL SUPRIYO) : (a) Government of India lays significant emphasis on implementation of environmental norms and conditions. The Environment (Protection) Act 1986 (EPA) authorizes the Central Government to undertake all the measures for the protection and improvement of environmental quality, control and reduce pollution from all sources, and prohibit or restrict the setting and/or operation of any activity on environmental grounds. While exercising its powers under the EPA, government has framed laws/subordinate legislations with regard to prohibition and restrictions on the location of industries, processes and operations in different areas. Directions and Show Cause notices are regularly issued in the instances of violations and non-compliances under Section 5 of the EPA and Rule 4 of Environment

(Protection) Rules, 1986. Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change has not come across any noticeable incidence in recent years pertaining to land conflicts which can be correlated with inadequate enforcement of environmental regulatory framework.

(b) As per the statistics available with the Ministry on online PARIVESH portal, during the FY 2018-19, 447 proposals amounting to the investment of ₹ 4.3 lakh crores have been granted environmental approvals by the Ministry.

(c) and (d) The Ministry has further strengthened the Environmental Clearance process and has further brought down the time taken to grant clearance to the extent possible by implementing the single-window integrated clearance management system named PARIVESH (Pro-Active and Responsive facilitation by Interactive, Virtuous and Environmental Single -Window Hub). The PAREVESH has made the clearance process online, expeditious and transparent thereby facilitating sound and informed decision making.

Encroachment on forest land

†3210. SHRI P. L. PUNIA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that more than 12 lakh hectares of forest land is under encroachment in the country, the State-wise details thereof; and

(b) details of the number of trees that could be planted on the said encroached land every year, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI BABUL SUPRIYO) : (a) Yes Sir. As per the information received from the State/Union Territory Governments, approximately 12.81 lakh hectare of forest land is under encroachment. However, the primary responsibility of protection of forests from various threats including encroachment lies with the respective State/ UT Governments. Hence the respective State/UT Governments fix the accountability and take action against those who found guilty in this regard, as per the extant acts, rules and regulations made there under.

Details of encroachment, as received from various States/UTs are given in Statement (*See below*).

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.