

(b) whether there is any mechanism to derive at the extent of loss due to change in land use and subsequent compensation therefor; and

(c) the area where there has been a change in land use from forest to otherwise that took place in 2015-16 to 2018-19?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI BABUL SUPRIYO): (a) In lieu of permission for non-forest use of forest land under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, the Central Government stipulates compensatory levies in terms of Compensatory Afforestation (CA), payment of Net Present Value (NPV) and other site specific mitigating measures such as preparation of Wildlife Management Plan, Catchment Area Treatment Plan, Soil and Moisture Conservation Plan, etc. Proposals are examined and considered on case to case basis and if approved, CA is stipulated to compensate the loss of land with land and trees with trees, while NPV is realized to enrich the surrounding forest areas with the ecosystem goods and services foregone by allowing the non-forest use of forest land.

(b) Amount of NPV is realized by the concerned State Government in accordance with rate prescribed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court for different forest types of the country in its order dated 24.03.2008 passed in Writ Petition No. 202/1995. Similarly, cost of CA is realized from the user agencies as per the site-specific afforestation schemes prepared by the concerned State Forest Department.

(c) A TOTAL of 59, 782.08 hectare of forest area was approved for change in land use from forest to non-forest during the period 2015-16 to 2018-19 and during the same period it has been stipulated for taking up compensatory afforestation over 1, 03, 260.11 hectare of land and plantation of 10.32 crore plants.

Hazardous levels of polluted air

1474. DR. L. HANUMANTHAIHAH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India is one of the top polluted countries of the world;

(b) if so, Government's response thereto;

(c) whether Government is aware that citizens are subjected to poor air quality and

are inhaling very hazardous levels of polluted air in many metropolitan cities, especially in Delhi; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action being taken by Government to control pollution?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI BABUL SUPRIYO): (a) and (b) The government is aware that several private institution and universities, while adapting different methodologies, different data set and giving different weightages to the parameters are ranking the countries. The data used for ranking is extracted primarily from satellite imageries, which are not validated by proper ground truthing. Further, the methodology for ranking needs to be peer reviewed. With the growing concerns on air pollution, the Government has introduced National Air Quality Index (NAQI), which is computed scientifically using PM10, PM2.5, NO2, SO2, CO, O3, NH3, and Pb that would facilitate effective dissemination of Air Quality.

(c) and (d) The Central Government has taken several measures for prevention, control and abatement of air pollution across the country which *inter alia* includes issuing stringent plans like Comprehensive Action Plan, Graded Response Action Plan, National Clean Air Programme; increasing of monitoring network for assessment of ambient air quality; Leapfrogging from BS-IV to BS-VI fuel standards since 1st April, 2018 in NCT of Delhi and from by 1st April, 2020 in the rest of the country; Introduction of cleaner/alternate fuels like gaseous fuel (CNG, LPG etc.); ensuring the stricter norms for reducing industrial emissions; notifying 6 waste management rules covering solid waste, plastic waste, e-waste, bio-medical waste, C&D waste and hazardous wastes in 2016 etc. All these measures helped in the improvement of overall air quality in the country. On the analysis of last five-year ambient air quality data (2014-2018), across the country, it is observed that most of the cities were within the National Standards with respect to parameters of SO2 and NO2. With respect to PM10 and PM2.5, 18 and 12 cities respectively showed decreasing trend. In reference to Delhi, there has been an overall improvement in air quality of Delhi in 2019 as compared to that of 2016. The number of 'Good to 'Moderate' days has increased to 175 in 2019 as compared to 108 in 2016.

Permission of cut trees

1475. SHRI NARAIN DASS GUPTA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has given permission to cut 1,09,75,844 trees in the last five years;