

Urban Local Bodies, Gram Panchayats, Government organisations and others made arrangements to deposit the collected plastic waste at designated locations for recycling. Start-ups, technical bodies and corporates came forward with their plans to recycle the collected waste. Eventual goal of the campaign was that the plastic waste is not dumped on land or into water but is recycled in environmentally sound manner. The campaign has achieved its near-term goal of creating awareness on the menace of plastic pollution.

As reported by States, about 13,829 tonnes of plastic waste was collected and sent for environmentally sound recycling/disposal and about 1.23 lakh awareness / shramdaan activities were undertaken all over the country. Emerging out of the campaign, the local bodies and States have set up systems for collection and safe disposal of such waste.

Further, the Ministry has issued "Standard Guidelines on Single-use Plastics" to all Ministries under the Government of India and to all States/UTs for extensive implementation in respective offices and in the States. The Guideline suggests actions to be taken by the State/UT Governments for minimization of usage of Single-use Plastics.

An expert group has been constituted by Central Institute of Plastics Engineering and Technology (CIPET) for research and development related to Oxo-Biodegradable Technology on plastic as an alternate plastic material. Central Pollution Control Board is also working on the information available on the subject of bio-degradable/compostable plastics including Oxo-Biodegradable plastic or any other alternatives.

Temporary use of forest land

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry has stated that the forest land except the protected areas can be used temporarily by any person or firm or organisation;

(b) whether it is a direct violation of the Act passed by Parliament to protect our forests and whether it allows open abuse of forests of the country; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI BABUL SUPRIYO): (a) to (c) The Ministry with a view

to allow temporary work of emergent nature, has issued guidelines on 07.10.2014. The guidelines have been issued for allowing use of the forest land for a short period without involving part of any protected area, felling of tree, breaking of land or assigning it on lease or otherwise. While taking such decision, the State Government shall ensure that such use of forest land is for public purposes and allowed for a period of not more than two-week time. Before allowing such use, it shall be ascertained that there is no alternate non forest land available.

Shortage of revenue land

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has exempted States and Union Territories having more than 75 per cent forest cover, from providing alternative land in the same State *in lieu* of diversion of forests land for various projects;

(b) if so, the names of the States with forest cover in terms of percentage; and

(c) steps taken to help those States in this regard which have shortage of revenue land?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI BABUL SUPRIYO): (a) The Ministry has issued guidelines for Compensatory Afforestation for the States/UTs having forest cover of more than 75% of their total geographical area, shall not be insisted upon to provide non-forest land within the UT/State itself, *in lieu* of use of forest land approved for non-forest purposes. However, the same may be taken up in any other State/UT having deficient forest cover.

(b) List of the States/UTs indicating percentage of forest cover to their total geographical area, as per the India State of Forest Report (ISFR)-2017 is given in Statement (*See* below).

(c) Ministry has issued letter dated 21.10.2019 to all States/UTs Governments for identification of non-forest land and degraded forest land for taking up compensatory afforestation in respect of use of forest land approved for non-forest purposes in Andaman and Nicobar Islands.