

Green Good Deeds and eco clubs

1188. DR. VIKAS MAHATME: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) the types of activities that have been included in the 'Green Good Deeds' initiative which is about simple, practical steps that students/teachers/citizens can perform in their day to day life towards protection of environment;

(b) number of eco clubs established in schools/colleges across the country and number of students actively involved in the programmes related to environmental protection and conservation activities; and

(c) whether Government has proposed or going to propose a scheme to promote environmental awareness among all sections of the society and to mobilize people's participation for conservation of environment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI BABUL SUPRIYO): (a) to (c) This Ministry has an ongoing Environment Education, Awareness and Training scheme with the objective to promote environmental awareness among all sections of the society, especially school and college level students and to mobilize people's participation for conservation of environment. The Green Good Deeds (GGDs), a social movement, is one of the components of the scheme aimed to inculcate green good habits and behaviour among all sections of the society to take green social responsibility. The GGDs initiative is about simple, practical steps that students/teachers/citizens can perform in their day to day life towards protection of environment. Cleanliness drives as part of Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, plantation drives, awareness on waste management, minimizing the use of single-use plastic, celebrating Green Diwali, etc. are some of the activities undertaken by the school and college level students under the initiative.

A network of about 1.6 lakh 'Ecoclubs' have been established in schools and colleges across the country under the National Green Corps programme. About 40 lakh students are actively participating in the programme and have been involved in conducting environment protection related activities. Besides, under the National Nature Camping Programme, nature camps are organized for school students in protected areas (Wildlife Sanctuaries, National Parks, etc.). Trainings are also provided to teachers and

students on various environmental issues, viz. biodiversity conservation, pollution, waste management, etc. through capacity building programmes.

Forest area in Gujarat

†1189. SHRI NARANBHAI J. RATHWA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) the area of forest land in Gujarat at present;
- (b) the area of land required to be conserved as forestland in districts of Gujarat as per the rules;
- (c) whether all the districts of Gujarat have forest land as per the rules at present; and
- (d) if not, districts of Gujarat not having forestland as per the rule?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI BABUL SUPRIYO): (a) As per information provided by State Forest Department of Gujarat, the Total recorded forest area in Gujarat State is 21859.22 square kilometre (km²).

(b) As per the rules and guidelines, a Total of 21859.22 km² of recorded forest area and 192.24 km² of other forest area are required to be conserved in Gujarat State.

(c) and (d) As informed by the State of Gujarat, all districts have forest land in the State as per rules.

Expected increase in forest cover

†1190. MS. SAROJ PANDEY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state the details of increase in tree and forest cover recorded during the last five years and the percentage increase in forest area expected by 2022 in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI BABUL SUPRIYO): Forest Survey of India, Dehradun, an organization under the Ministry carries out the assessment of forest and tree cover of the country biennially and the findings are published in India State of Forest Report (ISFR). The details of increase in forest and tree cover as per ISFR - 2015, 2017 and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.