Written	Answers	to
111111011	111000000	10

[2 March, 2020]

Unstarred Questions 115

Sl. No. States/UTs		Area (in hectare)
25.	Meghalaya	9850.52
26.	Mizoram	9457.23
27.	Nagaland	2479.96
28.	Sikkim	2817.21
29.	Tripura	6.77
30.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	3,887.72
31.	Chandigarh	14.00
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.08
33.	Daman and Diu	87.83
34.	Lakshadweep	Nil
35.	Delhi	361.62
36.	Puducherry	Nil

## Shut down of Sterlite Copper Plant

1170. SHRI NARANBHAI J. RATHWA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Sterlite Copper Plant, Thoothukudi, the largest smelter in Tamil Nadu has been shut down on the order passed by Principal Secretary to State Government, who in his capacity as Chairman of Pollution Control Board exercised his powers to direct closure of plant;

(b) if so, whether officer has become judge of his own case thus rendering closure of largest plant without adhering to laid down procedures; and

(c) if so, steps Government is contemplating to enquire into closure of plant by using different powers and by not giving any show cause notice to party as laid down in Environment (Protection) Act, 1986?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI BABUL SUPRIYO): (a) and (b) The State Government of Tamil Nadu issued Government Order G.O. (Ms) No. 72 dated 28.05.2018 for closure of the Copper Smelter Unit of M/s Vedanta Limited located at Tuticorin, Tamil Nadu based on the directions of the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board.

(c) M/s Vedanta Limited has filed a writ petition before the Hon'ble High Court of Madras in February, 2019, challenging the closure order of the State Government of Tamil Nadu and the matter is presently *sub-judice*.

## Impact of climate change on agriculture

1171. SHRI SARDAR BALWINDER SINGH BHUNDER: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has undertaken a study on the impact of climate change including changing monsoon pattern and its effects on the agriculture sector of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of land in hectares and crops which were affected by flood and drought in the country during the last three years, State-wise; and

(d) the corrective steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI BABUL SUPRIYO): (a) and (b) The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India has conducted climate change impact analysis including changing monsoon patterns and its effect on agriculture sector under National Innovations in Climate Resilient Agriculture (NICRA) project. Variable impact of climate change has been projected on production of certain crops like rice, wheat, maize, groundnut, chickpea and potato. Under NICRA attempts are being made to develop heat and drought tolerant wheat, flood tolerant rice, drought tolerant pulses, water logging and high temperature tolerant tomato etc. Findings of NICRA so far have led to release of four climate resilient varieties.

(c) and (d) The Central Water Commission, Ministry of Jal Shakti compiles information on the damage caused due to floods. Details showing State/UT-wise damage caused due to flood for the year 2016 to 2018 are given in the Statement-I, II and III (*See* below).