

afforestation by States/UTs. A Total amount of ₹629 crore was released to Maharashtra against their Annual Plan of Operation during last three years under CAMPA.

Further, Government of Maharashtra has informed that it has implemented schemes namely, MGNREGA Vyaktik Labhartyacha Shetachya Bandhavar Va Shetkaryanchya Shet Jaminiwar Van Vibhagachya Samajik Vanikaran Kadun Vriksha Lagwad" (Plantation on Private farmers land and agricultural bunds with the help of Social Forestry Division) and Kanya Van Samrudhi Yojana since 2018 in the Konkan region. Financial/technical assistance to the tune of ₹ 158.53 lakhs has been provided during 2018-19 to 2019-20 under MGNREGA "Vyaktik Labhartyacha Shetachya Bandhavar Va Shetkaryanchya Shet Jaminiwar Van Vibhagachya Samajik Vanikaran Kadun Vriksha Lagwad" scheme. It is further informed by Maharashtra Government that a Total of 95,705 and 4,05,200 trees have been planted in Konkan region during 2018-19 and 2019-20 respectively utilizing the financial/ technical assistance provided under the two schemes mentioned above.

Development of urban green parks

1181. SHRI JUGALSINH MATHURJI LOKHANDWALA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has formulated or proposes to formulate any policy for conservation, management and/or development of 'urban greens/green parks' towards improving green cover/reduce pollution in the country including Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has identified such areas in Tier-I, Tier-II and Tier-III cities; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI BABUL SUPRIYO): (a) to (d) The National Forest Policy, 1988 already recognizes that a massive need-based programme of afforestation and tree planting on all degraded and denuded lands in the country, whether forest or non-forest land, is a national imperative. The policy further emphasizes that "Green Belts" should be raised in urban/industrial areas as well as in arid tracts.

The Urban and Regional Development Formulation and Implementation (URDPFI)

Guidelines, 2015 issued by Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs also emphasizes practices and methods for protecting and enhancing urban greenery in a sustainable manner.

Further, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change launched two schemes for urban greenings in 2015 viz. (i) Nagar Van Yojana and (ii) School Nursery Yojana.

Nagar Van Yojana aims to create/ develop at least one City Forest in each city having Municipal Corporation/ Class I Cities for providing wholesome healthy living environment, and contributing to growth of Smart, Clean, Green, Sustainable and Healthy cities.

The School Nursery Yojana aims at involving school students in raising plant nurseries to bring them closer to natural environment, help them understand the natural processes of germination and feel the joy of watching saplings grow.

Encroachment of forests

1182. SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that cases of illegal occupation and encroachment across the forests of the country are on the rise;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has made any efforts to check such illegal occupations and encroachments; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI BABUL SUPRIYO): (a) and (b) The primary responsibility of protection of forests from various threats including encroachment lies with the respective States and Union Territories (UTs). The respective State Governments and UT Administrations take action against those who found guilty in this regard, as per the extant acts, rules and regulations made there under. As per the information received from the States and UTs, approximately 14.64 lakh hectare of forest land is under encroachment. Details are given in Statement (*See below*).