

As per the National Forest Policy 1988, the national goal should be to have a minimum of one-third of the Total land area of the country under forest or tree cover. In the hill and in mountainous regions, the aim should be to maintain two-third of the area under such cover in order to prevent erosion and land degradation and to ensure the stability of fragile eco-system.

In the Konkan region, 42.70 per cent of geographical area is having forest cover. Thane, Raigarh, Ratnagiri, Sindhu gurg, Mumbai suburban, Palghar and Raigad districts are having more than 30 per cent geographical area under forest cover, whereas Mumbai has 1.91 per cent of geographical area under forest cover.

To further increase the forest and tree cover in the country, the Ministry is taking several initiatives. These include ongoing Centrally Sponsored Schemes of the Ministry such as National Afforestation Programme, National Mission for a Green India and Development of Wildlife Habitats. The recently promulgated Compensatory Afforestation Fund Rules, 2018 also contain provisions for taking up assisted natural regeneration, artificial regeneration and silvicultural operations in forests which contribute to increase in forest cover. The Ministry also supports school nursery and urban forestry programmes through people's participation. Afforestation activities are also taken up under various programmes/funding sources such as Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana and under the schemes/plans of State and Union Territories.

Impact of global climate change

1162. SHRI N. GOKULAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) the latest predictions on the impact of global climate change on India;
- (b) the coastal cities that have been projected as vulnerable to sea level rise and consequent submersion; and
- (c) the steps Government proposes to maintain the agricultural production commensurate with the increase in population?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI BABUL SUPRIYO): (a) India is a Party to the United

Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). India has submitted Initial National Communication (INC) in 2004 and Second National Communication (SNC) in 2012 to the UNFCCC. As part of the National Communications, the Ministry conducted studies on the impact of climate change in India which are summarized in the 'Vulnerability Assessment and Adaptation' chapters. Impact of climate change and climate variability on the water resources are likely to affect irrigated agriculture, installed power capacity, environmental flows in the dry season and wet season. The report projects variable impacts in terms of the composition of forests and net primary productivity.

Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has conducted studies under the National Innovations on Climate Resilient Agriculture (NICRA) project, which indicates variable impacts of climate change on production of certain crops like rice, wheat, maize etc. in different regions of India.

Government of India has also published a report titled "Climate Change and India: A 4x4 Assessment - A Sectoral and Regional Analysis for the 2030". This report provides for projections on impacts of climate change on four key sectors of Indian economy namely, Agriculture, Water, Natural Ecosystems and Biodiversity, and Health in four climate-sensitive regions of India namely, the Himalayan region, the Western Ghats, the Coastal Areas and the North-East Region.

(b) As per Ministry of Earth Sciences, the observed rate of change of sea level at 10 major ports is as under:

Sl. No.	Location	Rate of change of sea-level (mm/year)	Duration of data used (years)
1	2	3	4
1.	Chennai	0.33	1916-2005
2.	Diamond Harbour	5.16	1948-2005
3.	Haldia	2.89	1972-2005
4.	Kandla	3.18	1950-2005
5.	Kochi	1.30	1939-2005

1	2	3	4
6.	Mumbai	0.74	1878-2005
7.	Paradeep	1.03	1966-2005
8.	Port Blair	2.20	1916-1964
9.	Vizag	0.97	1937-1988
10.	Okha	1.5	1964-1991

Since no long term data on land subsidence or emergence are available for these locations, the rate of increase of sea level due to climate change cannot be attributed with certainty.

(c) Government has embarked upon a number of initiatives that aim at addressing the multiple concerns affecting the agricultural sector with the focus on enhancing productivity on a sustainable basis; post-production front; credit facilitation; rejuvenation of soil health; balanced use of fertilizers; efficient use of water resources; higher returns to farmers; risk mitigation, etc. Some of the key programmes/schemes of the Government are:

- (i) Implementation of flagship scheme of distribution of Soil Health Cards to farmers.
- (ii) Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana ("Per Drop More Crop") initiative under which drip/sprinkler for optimal utilization of water, reducing cost of inputs and increasing productivity.
- (iii) "Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY)" for promoting organic farming.
- (iv) "Har Medh Par Ped", agroforestry is being promoted for additional income.
- (v) Beekeeping has been promoted under Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) to increase the productivity of crops through pollination among many other initiatives to maintain the country's agricultural production.
- (vi) Neem Coated Urea (NCU).
- (vii) Enhanced credit facility to the farm sector.
- (viii) National Food Security Mission (NFSM) which has been formulated for enhancing agricultural productivity especially in rainfed areas.

- (ix) Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana is a Government sponsored crop insurance scheme.
- (x) Micro Irrigation Fund.
- (xi) Agriculture Contingency Plan to tackle extreme events affecting crops, livestock and fisheries.

Pollution due to e-waste

†1163. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) the quantity of e-waste produced per year during the years 2016 to 2019 and percentage of said e-waste which got recycled;
- (b) whether Government has undertaken any assessment of the damage caused to the environment by the e-waste;
- (c) whether it is a major reason of air pollution; and
- (d) if so, the steps taken by Government towards maximum disposal of e-waste and putting a ban on its import?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI BABUL SUPRIYO): (a) The approximate estimated generation of e-waste in FY 2017-18 for electrical electronic equipment as listed in the schedule-I of the E-waste (Management) Rules, 2016 based on the sales data of 244 EPR (Extended Producers Responsibility) authorised producers is 7,08,445 tonnes. In FY 2018-19, based on the sales data of 1168 EPR authorised producers, the e-waste generation estimate is 7,71,215 tonnes. 69,414 MT and 1,64,663 MT of e-waste was collected, dismantled and recycled in FY 2017-18 and 2018-19 respectively as per information available with CPCB (Central Pollution Control Board).

(b) to (d) The electrical and electronic equipment (EEE) after their useful life may not cause any harm if stored safely and recycled or disposed of in environmentally safe manner. In case recovery of precious metals or useful components/materials are attempted are done in an un-scientific manner or in a manner not consistent with the guidelines of CPCB or it may cause health risks and damage to environment.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.