

under Section 2 (ii) of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. However, for expeditious approvals for various category of projects, including for roads, the following special dispensations have been made by the Government:

- (i) In case of requirement of forest land for public utility infrastructures including roads involving forest land (up to 1 ha and felling of maximum 50 numbers of trees), Central Government has granted general approval to State Governments /Union Territory (including Government of Rajasthan) to issue approvals under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.
- (ii) For linear infrastructures like roads, railways etc., 'working permission' may be granted for removal of trees and commencement of work by the user agency after 'In-Principle' approval and payment of compensatory levies.
- (iii) Power to accord approval in all category of linear projects, including roads, irrespective of the extent of the forest area involved has been delegated to Regional Empowered Committees at each Regional Office of the Ministry.

As per provisions of Forest (Conservation) Amendment Rules, 2014 timelines have been prescribed under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 which provides for grant of In-Principle approval within a period of 140 days, 195 days, 225 days and 300 days for proposals, complete in all respect, involving forest land less than 5 ha, 5 to 40 ha, 40 to 100 ha and above 100 ha, respectively.

Reduction in carbon emissions

68. SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that India is committed to reduce its carbon emissions with a targeted phase;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that India must enact stringent laws to combat the rapidly changing climate; 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) Under the Paris Agreement, India submitted its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) to United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change outlining eight targets for the period 2021-2030. One of the targets under NDC is to reduce the emissions intensity of its GDP by 33 to 35 percent by 2030 from 2005 level.

(c) and (d) National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) provides an overarching policy framework for all climate actions. NAPCC comprises of eight core Missions in specific areas of solar energy, enhanced energy efficiency, sustainable habitat, water, sustaining Himalayan ecosystems, Green India, sustainable agriculture and strategic knowledge for climate change. 33 States and Union Territories have also prepared State Action Plan on Climate Change (SAPCC) consistent with the objectives of NAPCC.

Loss of livelihood due to pollution

69. SHRI R.K. SINHA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state whether any plan or policy is being worked out by the Government to compensate citizens for their loss of livelihood/earnings, as during air pollution crisis, various authorities announce several curbs like stopping construction work, odd-even schemes, etc., and such steps adversely impact citizen's right to earn a livelihood and they have to pay a cost for it too?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI BABUL SUPRIYO): The Government is committed to prevention, control and abatement of air pollution in the country affecting the state of health of citizens across strata including the work force in industrial and informal sectors. Imposing restrictions/suspending of certain activities, which contribute adversely to the air pollution, is carried out in accordance with the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) etc., primarily with a view to protect the health interests of people immediately affected by pollution caused by such activities. Such restrictions/cessation on activities/ projects are, however, temporary in nature, primarily to minimize the impact of severe pollution levels.

Environmental clearances issued to industries/development projects stipulate provision of appropriate protective gear and implements to the workers to shield