

notification of Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) for Delhi and NCR, Comprehensive Action Plan (CAP) for air pollution control in Delhi and NCR, formulation of National Clean Air Programme (NCAP), organization of clean air campaigns, etc.

Forest villages in Jharkhand

831. SHRI DHIRAJ PRASAD SAHU: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of forest villages in Jharkhand at present;
- (b) the criteria laid-down for declaring forest village; and
- (c) the development work being done in these forest villages?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI BABUL SUPRIYO): (a) As per information provided by Government of Jharkhand, there are 23 Forest Villages in the State of Jharkhand.

(b) Section 2(f) of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006, provides that "forest village" means the settlements which have been established inside the forests by the forest department of any State Government for forestry operations or which were converted into forest villages through the forest reservation process and includes forest settlement villages, fixed demand holdings, all types of *taungya* settlements by whatever name called, for such villages and includes lands for cultivation and other uses permitted by the Government. Hence a forest village is the area wherein people were settled by the forest department in past and were allotted land for cultivation and for residential purpose with a view to get persons for forestry works.

(c) As per information provided by Government of Jharkhand, development works such as roads, schools, Anganwadi centres, check dams, ponds etc., as well as livelihood enhancement/income generating activities such as distribution of leaf plate making machines, processing of minor forest produce, skill upgradation training etc. are being undertaken in these forest villages.

India State of Forest Report

832. PROF. M.V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the India State of Forest Report includes areas of plantation which are non-forest areas, thereby contributing to the rise of forest area in India;

- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the error rate of the Ministry in estimating the forest area in the last five years; and
- (d) the steps being taken to increase the forest cover in the North-Eastern States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI BABUL SUPRIYO): (a) and (b) Definition of the term "Forest Cover" in the India State of Forest Report (ISFR) is as given below:—

"All lands, more than one hectare in area, with a tree canopy density of more than 10 percent irrespective of ownership and legal status. Such lands may not necessarily be a recorded forest area. It also includes orchards, bamboo and palm."

(c) Assessment of forest cover of the country is carried out biennially by Forest Survey of India, an organization under the Ministry and the findings are published in ISFR. Methodology of forest cover mapping has undergone regular improvements over the previous cycles and significant improvements have been incorporated in the methodology with the objectives of achieving higher accuracy, minimize subjectivity, improved information extraction from satellite data and improved cartography and projection.

The accuracy assessment of forest cover as per the last three ISFR is given below:—

ISFR	Overall Accuracy when forest and Non forest classes are considered	Accuracy when Very Dense Forest, Moderately Dense Forest, Open Forest classes are considered.
2015	95.22%	91.20%
2017	94.24%	90.00%
2019	97.20%	93.17%

(d) To increase forest cover in the country including North-Eastern States, 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 States and UTs.

Anti-poaching infrastructure

833. SHRI PRATAP SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the number of anti-poaching infrastructure assets constructed for the year 2019-20; and

(b) the details of the total number of personnel deployed for the year 2019-20?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI BABUL SUPRIYO): (a) and (b) During the financial year 2019-20, a total of ₹ 957.85 lakhs has been released to the State/UTs under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme-Development of Wildlife Habitats specifically for the purpose of Anti-poaching activities in Protected Areas. The details of which are given in Statement (*See below*).

During the financial year 2019-20, an amount of ₹ 266.56 crores has been sanctioned under the ongoing Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Project Tiger for activities which *inter-alia* includes construction and maintenance of anti-poaching camps, watch towers, purchase and maintenance of arms and ammunition, besides purchase of vehicles and anti-poaching equipment. There is a sanctioned strength of 15508 personnel involved in anti poaching activities in Tiger Reserves.

During the financial year 2019-20, an amount of ₹ 2768.21 lakhs has been sanctioned under the ongoing Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Project Elephant which *inter-alia* includes Anti-poaching activities in Protected Areas.