

landscape. MoEF&CC also promote tree outside forests realizing that the country has a huge potential for increasing its Trees Outside Forest (TOF) area primarily through expansion of agroforestry, optimum use of wastelands and vacant lands.

Various steps have been taken by the Government of India to address the impact of desertification. Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers'Welfare has taken up various programmes like the National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture which includes interventions such as the Soil Health Card, Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojna, Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North-Eastern Region, Rain Fed Area Development, National Agro-Forestry policy and the sub-Mission on Agro-Forestry, National Bamboo Mission, Prime Minister Krishi SinchaiYojna-Per Drop More Crop (PMKSY) etc.

The Integrated Watershed Management Programme (of the Watershed Management Division of the Ministry of Rural Development) was amalgamated as a Watershed Development Component of PMKSY in 2015-16 and an area of about 20.5 million hectares has been developed under completed and ongoing projects. Upto October 2019 an amount of ₹ 17751.75 crore has been released to States as Central share for implementation of Watershed Development Project. Between 2014-15 to 2019-20 (upto September 2019), total 6,08,384 water harvesting structures were created/rejuvenated, an additional area of 13,47,527 hectares has been brought under protective irrigation, and 27,25,587 farmers have been benefitted during the said period. Under afforestation/horticultural activities 92,000 hectares degraded and rain-fed lands have been covered during 2018-19 and 2019-20 (upto second quarter).

Studies have also been carried out under the Indian Council of Agricultural Research to combat desertification on various issues such as assessment of status of desertification in India's Arid Regions through satellite remote sensing and identification of field-based indicators; checking soil erosion, sand movement and control wind erosion through sand dune stabilisation, shelter-belt plantation and soil and water conservation; rehabilitation of mine spoil areas; methodology for reclaiming degraded land due to water logging and salinity-alkalinity etc.

Climate resilience of coastal communities

847. SHRIMATI VANDANA CHAVAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) the status and progress of the project initiated by Government across

Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Odisha on enhancing climate resilience of India's coastal communities;

(b) the steps taken under the project to support climate adaptive livelihoods in the State of Maharashtra; and

(c) details of the funds allocated and utilized for the project, year-wise and State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI BABUL SUPRIYO): (a) to (c) A Project titled "Enhancing Climate Resilience of India's Coastal Communities" has been approved for the States of Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Odisha, with part funding from the Green Climate Fund. A project inception workshop has been conducted and preparatory steps for project implementation are underway. No funds have been released to the States.

Ban on plastics

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

(a) number of States which have implemented a total ban on single use plastics;

(b) the technologies available for recycling of plastics;

(c) whether Government is aware that the monitoring mechanism has failed in curbing the use of banned plastics items; and

(d) measures Government proposes to eliminate the use of aluminium coated materials as aluminium foil is used as the substitute for packaging food-items which is equally harmful as it induces aluminium toxicity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI BABUL SUPRIYO): (a) So far, 23 States and 9 UTs have imposed partial or full ban on use of plastic carry bags/single use plastic.

(b) The key technologies prescribed for the management of plastic waste are (i) utilization of plastic waste in road construction, (ii) Co-processing of plastic waste in Cement Kilns, (iii) Conversion of plastic waste into liquid RDF (Oil) and (iv) Disposal of plastic waste through Plasma Pyrolysis Technology (PPT).