

(b) whether Government has any plans/proposals to help these type of organisations in increasing green/forest cover of the country; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI BABUL SUPRIYO): (a) As per the information received from Department of Forest and Wildlife Preservation, Punjab, the State has planted approximately 77 lakh plants in 12986 villages in cooperation with communities, NGOs and civil societies to commemorate the 5501 birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev.

(b) and (c) The Compensatory Afforestation Fund Rules 2018 provides for use of the funds for establishment, up-gradation and maintenance of modern nurseries and other planting stock production facilities for production of Quality Planting Material (QPM). Such QPM may be used for improving and expanding forest in the State including with the help of local people, NGOs, etc. Some States including Punjab, are providing free saplings to progressive NGOs for taking up plantations in their State. The Government of Punjab has also launched a scheme titled "Ghar Ghar Haryali" under which 32 lakhs plants have been supplied to various stakeholders including ECOSIKH and other NGOs.

Adverse impact on health of infants due to pollution

†2438. DR. KIRODI LAL MEENA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the health of the new born infants is being adversely affected due to the effects of pollution;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the scheme formulated by Government to control the increasing infant mortality rate caused by the effects of pollution?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI BABUL SUPRIYO): (a) and (b) Any pollution, such as household air pollution, water pollution, noise pollution, etc., may affect new born infants. However, there are no conclusive data available in the country to quantify the extent of morbidity, exclusively due to pollution. Health effects of pollution are synergistic manifestation of various factors which include socio-economic status, food habits, medical history, immunity, heredity, etc. of the individuals.

(c) The Government has formulated various schemes/programmes to address, *inter alia*, child mortality and morbidity like Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan (PMSMA), Surakshit Matritva Aashwasan (SUMAN), Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child, Adolescent Health and Nutrition (RMNCAH+N), Navjaat Shishu Suraksha Karyakram (NSSK), Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK), etc. In addition, specific schemes have been formulated with a vision for providing healthy environment for citizens like, Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojna (PMUY), Swachh Bharat Mission, Jal Jeevan Mission and National Clean Air Programme (NCAP). The National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) launched in January 2019 aims to tackle the problem of air pollution in a comprehensive manner with targets to achieve 20 to 30% reduction in PM_{10} and $pm_{2.5}$ concentrations by 2024.

Containing pollution level in cities

2439. SHRI SYED NASIR HUSSAIN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has been successful in containing and gradually bringing down the pollution levels in the Indian cities as a part of any targeted approach, on par with international norms and protocols;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI BABUL SUPRIYO): (a) to (c) The Central Government