

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 330
TO BE ANSWERED ON 26.03.2018

Environmental impact due to destruction of forests

* 330. SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether several researches have indicated that due to rampant cutting and destruction of forests, carbon dioxide is being released into the environment in abundance and consequently ozone layer is being depleted;
- (b) the action plan of the Ministry, in view of the threat to various cities of India caused by global warming, which has resulted in melting of glaciers and constant rising of water level of sea; and
- (c) the details of reduction in glacier size in the Himalayan region during the last three years and whether many animals and living beings are becoming extinct due to this?

ANSWER

MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

(DR. HARSH VARDHAN)

(a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a), (b) AND (c) OF THE RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. *330 REGARDING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT DUE TO DESTRUCTION OF FORESTS RAISED BY SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD FOR REPLY ON 26.03.2018:

- (a) Trees act as carbon sink. However, degradation of forests may lead to net emission of carbon dioxide to the atmosphere that contributes to climate change. As per the assessment carried out by Forest Survey of India, Dehradun biennially, the forest and tree cover of the country is showing an increasing trend over the last decade. As per the latest assessment published in India State of Forest Report (ISFR) 2017, there is an increase of 8021 sq km in forest and tree cover area in the country as compared to 2015 updated assessment of ISFR. The total carbon stock in forest as assessed in ISFR 2017 is 7082 million tonnes. This shows an increase of 38 million tonnes in the carbon stock of country in forests as compared to the last assessment. Therefore the forests of the country act as carbon sink. Therefore, depletion of ozone layer and other environmental impact due to forest degradation appears to be unfounded.
- (b) &(c) As the forest cover and carbon stock in forests of the country are increasing, the question of forest destruction leading to the global warming and melting of glacier does not arise. Further, the other factors which contribute or lead to global warming and melting of glacier along with details of wild animals and living being becoming extinct due to reduction of glacier size in Himalayan region is not collated by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.
