O.I.H

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1633
TO BE ANSWERED ON 08/07/2019

Plantation of trees along railway lines/NHs

1633. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR:

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

(a) whether Government is aware that due to terrible heat waves this summer, a large number of people died in different States of North India;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that due toindiscriminate cutting of forests, this situation is increasingly becoming frightening, year after year; and

(c) whether Government proposes to implement a comprehensive scheme to plant trees along the railway lines and on both sides of National Highways and whether Government would spend the required amount for this purpose from Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA) Fund?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI BABUL SUPRIYO)

(a) The data on deaths due to heatwaves is not being maintained by this Ministry.

(b) Tree cutting is allowed only under exceptional circumstances invariably with the condition of planting & growing more trees which is monitored. Further, tree cutting along with other anthropogenic activities, like burning of fossil fuels, transport emissions etc. contribute significantly in increasing earth's average temperature.

(c) Plantation on vacant lands along railway lines and on both sides of National Highways is mainly carried out by the Ministry of Railways and Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) respectively. As informed by NHAI, MoRTH, road-side and avenue plantation is done as per the codal provisions of Indian Roads Congress (IRC: SP: 21-2009) and Green Highways Policy, 2015 on available Right of

Way (ROW). Further, with a view to promote tree plantation on unused Railway land along the Railway tracks and along the National Highways, Model Agreements were issued by the Ministry to all States/UTs for entering into the agreements with concerned Railway Zones in States and NHAI respectively for greening of such unused government lands. Some of the State Forest Departments in States like Punjab, Haryana, Maharashtra, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, Tamil Nadu, etc. have initiated plantation activity on railway land.

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