

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 4048
TO BE ANSWERED ON 04.01.2019

Deforestation

4048. SHRI RAJESH RANJAN:
SHRIMATI RANJEET RANJAN:

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

- (a) whether the wildlife and climate conditions are being affected due to Deforestation owing to habitation of new colonies, if so, the steps being taken by the Government in this regard;
- (b) whether the trees planted in Delhi and other Metropolitan cities have become useless due to the lack of their proper maintenance, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the trees standing beside the roads are not being maintained properly and not pruned at regular intervals due to which road accidents are frequent especially in rainy days; and
- (d) if so, the steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(DR. MAHESH SHARMA)

- (a) As a policy, forest land is not diverted for habitation of new colonies. However, forest land are diverted for development activities e.g. mining, construction of roads, railway lines and other infrastructures. These diversions are done under the Forest Conservation Act, 1980. These diversions thus may affect the local climate and wildlife and in order to compensate for the ecological and biodiversity loss, Compensatory Afforestation is carried out on equal area of non-forest land or/and degraded forest land by State Governments. Net Present Value of the forest land diverted is collected from the user agency of such forest land and deposited in Compensatory Afforestation Fund. These funds are used for ecological restoration in the State. However, for the purpose of habitation of new colonies on non-forest land in cities, trees are removed as per the approved plan and felling of trees is regulated under special Acts and Rules of the State Government for protection of trees.
- (b), (c) & (d) Trees are planted in the cities along roads and these trees are maintained by the concerned Department as per the management plan of the Government. These trees are pruned for safety purposes by the concerned authorities as per requirement and permissible laws.
