

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 2733
TO BE ANSWERED ON 06.03.2020

Spreading of Prosopis Juliflora

2733. PROF. S.P. SINGH BAGHEL:

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

- (a) whether the Government in consultation with State Government is aware of the environmental challenges being faced due to spread of *Prosopis juliflora*, a highly invasive weed, in many parts of the country, including in the forests of Agra, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government is aware that the proliferation of *Prosopis juliflora* has resulted in decline in native species of trees, shrubs and natural habitats of birds/animals in the forests, if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether the Government has proposed any effective policy to check the spread of *Prosopis juliflora*, if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

- (a) & (b) *Prosopis juliflora* commonly called as mesquite has been widely introduced in many parts of the world including India. It has been planted as fuel and fodder species particularly during fuel wood programmes in 1980s. *Prosopis juliflora* is source of fuelwood, charcoal, timber, fodder, gums and valued as a species for soil conservation and aesthetic purposes. It has economic and soil restoration advantages, and its status as invasive species is site specific.

As per information received from Government of Uttar Pradesh, it was introduced in forests of Agra to reclaim ravenous and Usar land (sodic soil) characterized by refractory soil with deep water table and salinity and promotion of rural economy. At some places, it has formed thickets in waste land and forest areas resulting in marginalization of some of native species. At the same time, it has helped some selected wild life by providing protection and highly nutritive diet in form of its pods.

- (c) The Ministry provides financial assistance under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes such as Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitat, Project Tiger, Green India Mission, etc., which, *inter alia*, have provisions for site specific management and control the spread of invasive species. Local forest species are encouraged for plantation in the forest areas giving importance to trees with multiple uses.
