

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1006
TO BE ANSWERED ON 18.09.2020

World Environment Day

1006. SHRI KULDEEP RAI SHARMA
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Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the World Environment Day, 2020 was celebrated in the country recently and if so, the details and the main theme thereof;
- (b) the details of the programmes organized on the occasion of World Environment Day;
- (c) whether Government has launched the Nagar Van Scheme and if so, the details thereof and the aims and objectives of the Scheme;
- (d) whether the forest cover in the urban areas in the country is fast depleting thereby threatening the ecology, if so, the corrective steps taken by Government in this regard; and
- (e) the further steps taken by Government to boost and develop urban forests in the country?

ANSWER

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

- (a) and (b) Yes Sir. Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change celebrated World Environment Day (WED) on 5th June, 2020. This year the theme was Nagar Van (Urban Forest) to focus on the importance of urban forests. With a view to protect such forest lands in urban areas and to create forested areas in urban cities, with participation and collaboration between Forest Departments, Municipal Bodies, Non-Government Organizations (NGOs), Corporates and local citizens, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change launched the 'Nagar Van' Scheme on WED, 2020. The event chaired by Hon'ble Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Shri Prakash Javadekar, Hon'ble Minister of State, Shri Babul Supriyo saw virtual participation from national and international dignitaries including Executive Director, United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), Executive Director, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP),

Minister (Forest), Government of Maharashtra, besides senior officers from the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change at the central and state level and certain NGO representatives. The event also included, inter alia, release of best practices in urban forests and screening of a film showing success stories including conversion of 16.8 ha of a barren hills into urban forest in Pune.

- (c) to (e) Yes Sir. Forest lands in urban areas are generally degraded and face various threats of encroachment, misuse, deforestation, etc.

The Nagar Van Scheme aims at creation of 200 Nagar Vans in cities having Municipal Corporation. Such Nagar Vans are proposed to be created primarily on forest lands having minimum 10 ha to maximum 50 ha area. Under the scheme, financial support is provided for fencing, water and soil conservation measures etc. The scheme is to be implemented in a collaborative mode by State Forest Departments with involvement of other stakeholders including NGOs, Corporate bodies, Civic Societies, etc.

Forest Survey of India (FSI), Dehradun, an organization under the Ministry carries out assessment of forest cover of the country biennially and the findings are published in India State of Forest Report (ISFR). As per the latest report i.e. ISFR- 2019, the total forest and tree cover in the country is 8,07,276 square kilometre (forest cover 7,12,249 square kilometre, tree cover 95,027 square kilometre) which is 24.56% of the geographical area of the country. There is an increase of 5,188 square kilometre (forest cover 3,976 square kilometre, tree cover 1,212 square kilometre) of total forest and tree cover in the country, including urban areas, compared to that reported in ISFR-2017
