

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4920
ANSWERED ON:23.12.2014
ECO-SYSTEM OF RIDGE
Singh Shri Kirti Vardhan

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

- (a) whether there is any proposal to remove the plant species of Vilayati Kikar from the stretches of the Ridge Areas in Delhi;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to maintain the eco-system of the ridge?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR)

(a) to (c) The Vilayati Kikar (*Prosopis juliflora*) is not an indigenous or a native tree of Delhi Ridge, but it has adapted well in Delhi and has become a dominant species. It restricts regeneration of indigenous tree species of Aravalli Ridge. The Delhi Government is taking steps to plant the Ridge forest areas by indigenous species gradually replacing the Vilayati Kikar. Such steps will gradually reduce expansion and regeneration of Vilayati Kikar, and help to maintain and improve the ecosystem of the Ridge.