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Title: Need to increase green cover in cities in the country.

SHRI CHARLES DIAS (NOMINATED): Cities in our country are becoming polluted day by day and they lack even the primary need of Oxygen. Studies in many cities in our country show that atmospheric pollution is increasing and it is becoming unworthy for human life. Diseases are spreading because of atmospheric pollution and reckless construction of buildings is making human life difficult.

The only way to give more oxygen to our cities is to grow more trees. But, the footpaths are covered with concrete and as such this has made it difficult for trees to grow in cities. The avenues have become a rare view in Indian cities now. Trees which were planted in our cities have been perished by shop-owners and no action can be taken against them in the present set-up as they damage the trees with chemicals. In the above circumstances, to give lungs to our cities, 'city forests' are the only way. Henceforth, cities have to be planned with enough space to form city forests and there should be a ratio of land to be earmarked in proportion with other areas for housing public buildings and commercial areas. This will not only provide Oxygen to our cities, but give a green shelter to birds and space to spend leisurely hours to the inhabitants.