

Bill No. 118 of 2024

THE SPECIAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR
GEO-MAPPING OF TREES IN THE STATE
OF RAJASTHAN BILL, 2024

By

SHRI DAMODAR AGRAWAL, M.P.

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BILL

*to provide for special financial assistance to the State of Rajasthan to
meet the expense of geo-mapping of trees and saplings
during plantation in the State of Rajasthan.*

BE it enacted by Parliament in the Seventy-fifth Year of the Republic of
India as follows:—

1. (1) This Act may be called the Special Financial Assistance for Geo-
Mapping of Trees in the State of Rajasthan Act, 2024.

Short title
and
commencement.

5 (2) It shall come into force on such date as the Central Government
may, by notification in the Official Gazette, appoint.

Definitions.

2. In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires—

(a) “Geo-mapping” means the process of converting raw data from surveys into a geo map that helps by providing a visualization of the location of utilities quickly and accurately;

(b) “prescribed” means prescribed by rules made under this Act; 5

(c) “sapling” means a young tree specifically one not over four inches (about 10 centimeters) in diameter at breast height; and

(d) “tree” includes palm, skump, brush-wood and cane.

Special
financial
assistance to
the State of
Rajasthan.

3. There shall be paid such sums of money out of the Consolidated Fund of India, every year, as Parliament may by due appropriation provide, as special financial assistance to the State of Rajasthan to meet the costs of geo-mapping of trees and saplings during plantation in the State of Rajasthan. 10

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

Rajasthan, according to geographical area, ranking 15th in terms of the Recorded Forest Areas (RFA), is a forest deficient State. As per the Champion and Seth Classification of Forest Types (1968), the forests in Rajasthan belong to two type groups *i.e.* Tropical Dry Deciduous and Tropical Thorn Forests which are further divided into 20 Forest Types.

Situated in the north-western part of the country, the largest State of the country, Rajasthan covers an area of 3,42,239 sq km, which is 10.40 per cent. of the geographical area of the country. The State has 4 distinct regions namely, Western Desert with Barren Hills, Level Rocky and Sandy Plains, the Aravalli Hills and South-Eastern Plateau.

The climate of the State varies from semi-arid to arid. Western part of the State, including Thar Desert (also known as The Great Indian Desert), is relatively dry and infertile whereas in the south-western part, the land is wetter, hilly, and more fertile. The average annual temperature ranges between 0°C to 50°C and the average annual rainfall is in the range of 500 mm to about 750 mm. The State is drained by a number of rivers which include Banas, Chambal, Luni and Mahi. The State has 33 districts.

As per the 2011 Census, Rajasthan has a population of 68.55 million accounting to 5.66 per cent. of India's population. The rural and urban population constitute 75.10 per cent. and 24.90 per cent. respectively. The population density is 200 per sq km which is much lower than the national average of 382 persons per sq km. The 19th Livestock census 2012 has reported a total livestock population of 57.73 million in the State.

Trees play many valuable roles in our lives. They sequester carbon, produce oxygen, fix nitrogen and help in controlling pollution. Trees play a role in cleaning the air. Properly located trees reduce the heating and cooling costs of buildings, as well as, contributing to more comfortable outdoor spaces. Trees reduce soil erosion and provide important habitat and food sources for animals including humans. Dead trees provide hunting perches for raptors and other birds. They can provide vital housing for many species of birds and animals.

The Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change has estimated that nearly 1 billion of hectares of trees are needed to reduce climate change to about 1.5°C. The challenge, however, is where to put those trees. A new study indicates that through geo-mapping of trees and sapling, during plantation, the locations where new trees can be planted can be identified.

It is, therefore, necessary that the Central Government should provide special assistance to the State of Rajasthan to meet the costs of geo-mapping of trees and saplings during the plantation in the State of Rajasthan.

Hence this Bill.

NEW DELHI;
July 29, 2024.

DAMODAR AGRAWAL

FINANCIAL MEMORANDUM

Clause 3 of the Bill provides that there shall be paid such sums of money out of the Consolidated Fund of India, every year, as Parliament may be due appropriation provide, as special financial assistance to the State of Rajasthan to meet the costs of Geo-Mapping of Trees and Saplings during the plantation in the State of Rajasthan, as may be undertaken by the State with the approval of the Government of India.

The Bill, therefore, on enactment, will involve expenditure out of Consolidated Fund of India. As the sums of moneys which will be given to the State of Rajasthan as special financial assistance by appropriation by law made by Parliament will be known only after the plans to be implemented by the State Government with the approval of Government of India are identified, it is not possible at present to give the estimates of recurring expenditure, which would be involved out of the Consolidated Fund of India at this stage.

No non-recurring expenditure is likely to be incurred from the Consolidated Fund of India.

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