

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1486
TO BE ANSWERED ON 01.01.2018

Protection of forests in Chhattisgarh

1486. SHRI RANVIJAY SINGH JUDEV:

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

- (a) Whether, at many places, forest prevails on records but practically there are no forests;
- (b) whether there is any planning to replant trees in those places;
- (c) whether cutting of sal trees by Government is done routinely especially in Jashpur district of Chhattisgarh; and
- (d) what measures are being taken to protect forests and to replant the trees in Jashpur district, Chhattisgarh?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

(DR. MAHESH SHARMA)

- (a) & (b) Yes, Sir. There are many places in which forests prevails on record but due to geomorphological composition like barren Rocks and heavy biotic pressure the forest density is less. There are many schemes for planting trees in such places. With a view to increase the forest cover in the country, Ministry is implementing various Centrally Sponsored Schemes such as National Afforestation Programme (NAP), Green India Mission (GIM), Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA).

Besides these schemes, Government of India is also implementing other schemes such as Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) (which from 2015-16 has been amalgamated as the Watershed Development Component of the “Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY)”) which, *inter-alia*, have a component on tree plantation.

National Afforestation Programme (NAP) of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for afforestation and eco-restoration of degraded forests and adjoining areas through people’s participation in the country. The scheme is being implemented through a decentralized mechanism of State Forest Development agency (SFDA) at State Level, Forest Development agency (FDA) at Forest Division level and Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMCs) at Village level. An amount of Rs. 3698.63 crore has been released to the states to treat an area of 21.38 lakh hectares including Chhattisgarh since inception of the programme till 2016-17. An amount of Rs. 35.12 crore has been released to Chhattisgarh State to treat new

area of 9174 hectares and maintenance of previous years plantation during last three years (2014-15 to 2016-17). This includes an amount of Rs. 3.42 crore sanctioned to Jashpur FDA Chhattisgarh to treat new area of 850 hectare and maintenance of previous years plantation during last three year.

National Mission for a Green India (GIM) is one of the eight Mission outlined under the National Action Plan on Climate Change. It aims at protecting, restoring and enhancing India's forest cover and responding to Climate. GIM activities were started in the Financial Year 2015-16, so far fund amounting to Rs. 54.56839 crore has been released under GIM to Chhattisgarh for carrying out GIM activities.

- (c) & (d) As per information provided by State Forest Department, Chhattisgarh, cutting of Sal trees in State of Chhattisgarh including Jashpur Division by Government agency is done according to provision of Working Plans. Protection of forests in Jashpur District is being carried out by regular patrolling by field staff with people's participation. In Jashpur District 505 Joint Forests Management Committees (JFMC's) are very active and their role is very commendable in protection of forests and planting trees. There are many schemes of the State as well as Central Government for taking up plantation activities.
