GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-3102
ANSWERED ON- 30/03/2022

TREE COVER LOSS DUE TO ROAD PROJECTS

3102. # SHRI NEERAJ DANGI:

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the tree cover loss due to road projects during the last three years and extent of tree cover estimated to be damaged;

(b) whether there has been any major impact on environment due to these road projects, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the efforts made by Government to make up for the felling of trees under such schemes?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

(SHRI NITIN JAIRAM GADKARI)

(a) & (b) As a policy barest minimum number of trees are felled in marginal strip of land for implementation of the National Highways Projects. Many times, Right of Way (ROW) is reduced to ensure that bare minimum number of trees are felled. No major impact on Environment has been reported so far, due to National Highways Projects. There might be marginal positive impact on environment as more trees are planted in lieu of felled trees. The ministry has also taken a decision to utilize technology and expertise to transplant tree in place of telling them. This work is in progress.

(c) Trees planted are many more in lieu of the trees felled. Additionally, avenue plantation and median plantation are included in highway projects depending upon availability of ROW and cross-sectional configuration.

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