

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3897
TO BE ANSWERED ON 06.04.2023

Special drive for increasing the density of forests

3897. MS. INDU BALA GOSWAMI:

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

- (a) whether the Ministry proposes to start a special drive for increasing the density of forests and for maintenance work in the hill States of north India;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether a report has been sought from the State Government of Himachal Pradesh regarding damage to forests for the said drive?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)

- (a) to (c) Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has been making constant efforts to increase forest and tree cover and has taken several initiatives towards plantation activities which in-turn also help in improving the density of forest cover in the country including Hilly States of North India.

Although, there is no proposal at present to start a specific special drive for increasing the density of forests and for maintenance work in the hill States of North India including Himachal Pradesh, the Ministry supports the States/Union Territories for carrying out various afforestation activities through Centrally Sponsored Schemes, namely, National Mission for a Green India (GIM), National Afforestation Programme (NAP) and transfers fund under CAMPA to promote plantation, preservation and increase the soil & moisture conservation and green cover across the country.

The Ministry also implements the Forest Fire Prevention and Management Scheme to extend support to the State/ UT Governments in forest fire prevention and management to prevent destruction of forests and thereby contributing to improving forest density.

Further, annual afforestation/ tree plantation targets are fixed by the Ministry for all States/UTs which are achieved through the concerted efforts of various departments including afforestation drives.