

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 41
TO BE ANSWERED ON 02.02.2023

Mangrove Alliance for Climate (MAC)

41. SHRI B. PARTHASARADHI REDDY:

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

- (a) whether Government plans to adopt adequate measures to restore mangrove cover in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the details of the steps being taken to fulfil the objectives of the Mangrove Alliance for Climate (MAC), which was launched at the 27th Session of Conference of Parties; and
- (d) the details of additional measures being taken to further India's goal of increasing its carbon sink?

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 is implementing several schemes including the National Coastal Mission and Green India Mission that fund activities for conservation and management of mangroves. Activities under these schemes are aligned with the objectives of Mangrove Alliance for Climate (MAC) which aims to accelerate conservation, restoration and plantation of mangroves. MAC encourages members to plant, rehabilitate and restore mangroves within their country, as well as support others to do the same.

Forest Survey of India is assessing the mangrove cover since 1987. As per the India State of Forest Report 2021, there has been an increase of 11.37% in Mangrove area from 4482 sq km (2001) to 4992 sq km (2021), which is 0.15% of the country's total geographical area.

Mangroves are classified as Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) - 1A, Ecologically Sensitive Areas (ESAs) under Coastal Regulation Zone Notification 2019 and the Island Protection Zone Notification, 2011 under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. No activities are permitted to be carried out in CRZ-1A area including fishing, except some activities in case of Mangroves. The Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and The Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 also provide legislative protection for conservation of mangroves.

(d): The measures to further India's goal of increasing its carbon sink comprise of Green India Mission (GIM), National Afforestation Programme, Compensatory Afforestation Funds under Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority, afforestation activities under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, Green Highway Policy 2015, Policy for enhancement of Urban Greens, National Agro-forestry Policy and Sub-mission on Agro-forestry, National Bamboo Mission and National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture. In addition to above, State Government and Union Territory Administration have their own afforestation and reforestation programmes. Almost every State has activities under social forestry, which largely focuses on tree plantation in the area outside forest.
