

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No.59
TO BE ANSWERED ON 02.02.2023

Promotion of forestry in the country

59. SHRI HARNATH SINGH YADAV:

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

- (a) whether any action has been taken by Government to promote forestry in the country, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (b) whether Government has taken any steps to combat desertification through increasing the forest cover, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) whether Government has taken any steps to conserve the mangroves from coastal erosion, if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

- (a) The National Forest Policy (NFP) 1988 envisages the national goal to have a minimum of one third of the total land area under forest or tree cover and twothird of the area under such cover in the hill and mountainous regions of the country. In consonance with NFP, 1988, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change(MoEF&CC) has been taking several initiatives forpromoting forestry in the country. The afforestation and tree plantation activities are undertaken by States and Union Territories Governments under various State schemes. The Ministry provides financial assistance to States and Union Territories Governments under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes namely Green India Mission to support and supplement the efforts of States and Union Territories. National Mission for a Green India (GIM) is one of the eight Missions outlined under the National Action Plan on Climate Change. It aims at protecting, restoring, and enhancing India's forest cover and responding to Climate Change by undertaking plantation activities in the forest and non-forest areas. The Ministry is implementing Nagar Van Yojana (NVY) with an objective to enhance the forest and green cover in the urban and peri-urban areas. School Nursery Yojna is also being implemented across the country to actively involve school students in developing nursery, raising and planting seedlings as part of school curriculum. The afforestation activities are also taken up by utilizing The Compensatory Afforestation Fund (CAMPA fund), for compensating the loss of forest & tree cover due to diversion of forest land for developmental projects.

- (b) Government is implementing several schemes/programmes to combat desertification through increasing forest cover. Various afforestation related schemes implemented by MoEF&CC and other Ministries aim at increasing and improving forest and tree cover. MoEF&CC supports the States/Union Territories for carrying out various afforestation activities through Centrally Sponsored Scheme for conservation, development and promotion of forests under its major schemes namely, National Mission for a Green India (GIM) and Forest Fire Protection & Management Scheme (FFPM). Compensatory afforestation under CAMPA has also been used to increase forest cover across the country. State Governments also implement various schemes for restoration of degraded forest areas.
- (c) Mangroves are the first line of defence for coastal communities. They stabilize shorelines by slowing erosion and provide natural barriers protecting coastal communities from increased storm surge, flooding, and hurricanes. The Government of India has taken steps to protect, sustain, conserve and augment forests in the country through promotional as well as regulatory measures. The promotional measures are being implemented through a Central Sector Scheme under National Coastal Mission Programme on 'Conservation and Management of Mangroves and Coral Reefs'. Under this programme, annual Management Action Plan (MAP) for conservation and management of mangroves are formulated and implemented in all the coastal States and Union Territories.

The Government under Centrally sponsored scheme for conservation & management of mangroves, extend assistance to Coastal State/UTs for implementation of action plans including survey and demarcation, alternation and supplementary livelihood, protection measures and education and awareness activities. The Ministry piloted an Integrated Coastal Zone Management Project in Coastal stretches of three States namely Gujarat, Odisha and West Bengal, with objective of conservation and protection of coastal resources which included plantation of mangroves as one of the major activities.
