

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 377
TO BE ANSWERED ON 25.07.2024

Environmental Heritage Sites

377. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI:

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

- (a) whether Government mulls creating Environmental Heritage Sites in the country on the lines of Heritage Cities, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether Government has taken note of rampant and mindless cutting of trees in urban areas;
- (c) whether any guidelines are there for the civic authorities to restrain them and prevent cutting of trees of certain age; and
- (d) whether Government has any policy and technology to translocate the heritage trees intact without damaging the avian and other life dependents on a particular tree?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH)

- (a) At present, there is no proposal in the Ministry for creating Environmental Heritage Sites in the country.
- (b)& (c) Protection and management of forest and tree resources is primarily the responsibility of State Governments/Union Territory Administration. There are legal frameworks for the protection and management of forest and tree resources of the country which include, Indian Forest Act 1927, Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980, Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972 and State Forest Acts, Tree Preservation Acts, and Rules etc. The State Governments /UT Administrations take appropriate actions to protect forests and trees under the provisions made under these Acts/ Rules.
- (d) At present, the Ministry has no policy to translocate the heritage trees intact without damaging the avian and other life dependents on a particular tree. However, some States have issued species-specific tree translocation guidelines.
