

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**STARRED QUESTION NO. 261**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 19.12.2024

**Targets to increase the green cover**

261\*. SHRI SANJAY SETH:

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

- (a) whether Government has set any targets to increase the green cover in the country and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the steps taken by Government to promote afforestation and reforestation efforts in the country;
- (c) the details of the schemes and programmes launched by Government to encourage individuals, communities and organizations to plant trees and promote greenery;
- (d) the progress made so far in achieving the targets set under the National Forest Policy, 2018; and
- (e) the measures taken by Government to protect and preserve existing forests and prevent deforestation and land degradation?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE  
(SHRI BHUPENDER YADAV)

**(a) to (e)** : A Statement is laid on the table of the House

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**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARA (A) TO (E) OF THE RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 261 DUE FOR REPLY ON 19.12.2024 REGARDING 'TARGETS TO INCREASE THE GREEN COVER' RAISED BY SHRI SANJAY SETH, HON'BLE MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT.**

(a) As per the National Forest Policy (NFP) 1988, the national goal is to have a minimum of one-third of the total land area under forest or tree cover.

(b) & (c) In consonance with the NFP 1988, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) has been taking several initiatives for promoting afforestation and eco-restoration activities. The details of the schemes launched by the Ministry to encourage individuals, communities and organizations to plant trees and promote greenery are as under -

National Mission for a Green India (GIM), which is one of the eight Missions outlined under the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) and is aimed towards protecting, restoring and enhancing India's forest cover and responding to Climate Change by local communities through Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMCs) in the participating States/UTs.

The Nagar Van Yojana (NVY) is implemented to create forest/green spaces in urban and peri-urban areas by developing Nagar Van/Vatikas. The Nagar Van/Vatikas also help in protection of forest and concerned Government lands within cities/towns or its fringes from degradation and encroachment and is being implemented through the State/UT Forest Departments and Urban Local Bodies.

The School Nursery Yojana (SNY) is implemented to enable students to understand and appreciate the importance of plants in maintaining and sustaining the natural eco-system and is implemented in public and private schools recognized by State Boards /Central Government Boards.

The funds under Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA) are utilized for compensating the loss of forest and ecosystem services due to diversion of forest land for non-forestry purposes as per the provision of the *Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam*, 1980.

Battalions of Eco-Task Forces (ETFs), raised under the aegis of Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change and Ministry of Defence with the help of concerned States, carry out afforestation and eco restoration of degraded lands.

In addition, the Ministry on various occasions like International Day of Forests, World Environment Day, *Van Mahotsav*, Wildlife Week, etc. promotes mass tree plantation and disseminates knowledge about tree plantation and conservation of forests among the public through various conferences, Workshops, Brochures, Sign boards etc.

- (d) The National Forest Policy (NFP) 1988 envisages that a minimum of one third of the total land area is to be covered under forest or tree cover. As per the India State of Forest Report 2021 (ISFR) published by the Forest Survey of India, the forest cover of India during the current assessment shows a net increase of 1540 sq. kms and the Tree Cover shows an increase of 721 sq. km over the previous assessment report of 2019.
- (e) Various acts and regulations of Central Government such as the Indian Forest Act, 1927; the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972; the *Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan). Adhiniyam*, 1980; Eco Sensitive Zone Notification, under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986; the Biological Diversity Act, 2002; Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) Notification 2019 and other State/UT specific Acts help to protect and preserve existing forests while preventing deforestation and land degradation.

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