

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 392
TO BE ANSWERED ON 28.11.2024

Introduction of Nature Restoration Law

392. SHRI B. PARTHASARADHI REDDY

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

- (a) whether Government plans to introduce a Nature Restoration Law similar to the European Union's, mandating the restoration of 20 per cent of degraded ecosystems by 2030, if so, specific timelines and geographic regions identified for this restoration, and the criteria used for selection;
- (b) whether Government has conducted any studies on the economic and social benefits of large-scale ecosystem restoration in line with global projections; and
- (c) the reasons for not setting legally binding targets for ecosystem restoration despite ISRO's reports on land degradation, and how Government plans to mitigate this without such a law?

ANSWER

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

- (a) to (c) Consequent to the adoption of the Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework by Convention on Biological Diversity during 2022, the Government of India has updated and released the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP). The NBSAP acknowledges environmental challenges and outlines strategies to address them through ecosystem restoration, species recovery programmes, and community-driven conservation efforts focusing on the restoration of degraded ecosystems, the protection of wetlands, and the sustainable management of marine and coastal areas.

Further, the National Forest Policy, 1988 aims at substantially increasing the forests and tree cover in the country through massive afforestation programmes, especially on denuded and degraded lands.

India has committed to restoring 26 million hectares of degraded land by 2030 as part of its obligations under the Bonn Challenge and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD). So far, India has been able to restore 18.94 million hectares of degraded land. India has also committed to creating an additional carbon sink of 2.5 to 3 billion tonnes of CO₂ equivalent by 2030 through enhanced forest and tree cover, as part of its Nationally Determined Contributions under the Paris Agreement.