

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1014
TO BE ANSWERED ON 13.02.2025

Restoration of ecosystem and biodiversity enrichment

1014. SHRI KUNWAR RATANJEET PRATAP NARAYAN SINGH:

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

- (a) the steps taken by Government to reduce emissions, land degradation, restore ecosystems and enrich biodiversity as part of its holistic approach to conservation;
- (b) the specific measures implemented to ensure the restoration of ecosystems and biodiversity enrichment;
- (c) the role of local communities in contributing to conservation efforts, particularly in land restoration and emission reduction initiatives; and
- (d) whether Government has identified any challenges in the execution of these conservation strategies and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

- (a) & (b) The Government has been undertaking a number of steps to reduce emissions, combat land degradation, restore ecosystems and enrich biodiversity as part of its holistic approach to conservation. The specific measures taken include incorporation of mitigation and adaptation strategies under several flagship Urban Missions/ Schemes of Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) viz. Swachh Bharat Mission - Urban (SBM-U), Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT), Smart Cities Mission (SCM), Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana - Urban (PMAY-U) and Metro Rail Projects. The Amrit Dharohar scheme has been announced to encourage optimal use of wetlands, to enhance bio-diversity and carbon stock and create eco-tourism opportunities and income generation for local communities. Mangrove Initiative for Shoreline Habitats & Tangible Incomes (MISHTI) is being undertaken through National Coastal Mission (NCM) for restoration of degraded mangrove areas, protection of shorelines and as a climate mitigation and adaptation measure.

Besides the above, the Government has also taken several initiatives for protection of biodiversity and environmental conservation through formulation and implementation of National Action Plan for Climate Change (NAPCC) which outlines eight missions viz., National Solar Mission, National Mission on Sustainable Habitat, National Mission for Enhanced Energy Efficiency, National Water Mission, National Mission for Sustaining Himalayan Ecosystem, Green India Mission, National Mission for Sustainable

Agriculture and National Mission on Strategic Knowledge for Climate Change; National Plan for conservation of Aquatic Ecosystems (NPCA); Biosphere Reserve; Watershed Development Project in Shifting Cultivation Areas; Water Resources programme for Repair, Renovation & Restoration of Water bodies; Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA). Further, Programmes like the National Green Hydrogen Mission, National Clean Air Programme (NCAP), Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthan Mahabhayan (PM-KUSUM), PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana are also being implemented for reducing emissions and environmental conservation.

(c) & (d) Local communities play a crucial role in conservation efforts, and their involvement is essential to ensure the success and sustainability of these programs, as they often hold local/traditional knowledge and have embedded interest in the long-term health of the environment. Through *Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMCs)* local communities are empowered to manage and restore forests and share benefits, which promote sustainable resource use, ecosystem restoration. Similarly, local communities are also actively involved in watershed management programs, and also help protect endangered species and restore ecosystems by participating in conservation projects. These conservation strategies have worked well with cooperation of local communities, in dealing with environmental issues.
