

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2303
TO BE ANSWERED ON 20.03.2025

Afforestation in the country

2303. DR. M. THAMBIDURAI:

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

- (a) the present status of afforestation in the country;
- (b) whether Government proposes to give financial incentives to agencies which take part in such projects;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the action plan formulated by Government to control unrestricted exploitation of natural resources in the country?

ANSWER

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

- (a) to (d) The Ministry has taken up several initiatives for afforestation in the country and the present status of the schemes through which funds are provided for afforestation to the States/UTs are as below -
 - (i) National Mission for a Green India (GIM) is aimed at protecting, restoring and enhancing India's forest cover through Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMCs) in the participating States/UTs, under which a sum of Rs. 962.87 crores have been released to 17 States and 1 Union Territory for creation of plantations/eco-restoration, since 2015-16.
 - (ii) The Nagar Van Yojana (NVY) to create forest/green spaces in urban and peri-urban areas is implemented through the State/UT Forest Departments and Urban Local Bodies. Ministry has sanctioned a total of 546 projects in 31 States/ UTs and released Rs. 433.62 crore since 2020-21.
 - (iii) The School Nursery Yojana (SNY) which involves students in nursery creation and planting is being implemented in recognized public and private schools. A total of 743 projects in 19 Sates/UTs have been sanctioned with an outlay of Rs. 4.80 crore since 2020-21.
 - (iv) The "Mangrove Initiative for Shoreline Habitats & Tangible Incomes" (MISHTI) scheme has been launched to restore and promote mangroves as unique, natural eco-systems and for preserving and enhancing the sustainability of the coastal habitats. A total of Rs. 17.96 crores has

been released to the States of Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Kerala, Odisha, West Bengal and UT of Puducherry since 2024-25.

- (v) The *Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam* campaign was launched on 5th June, 2024 to promote voluntary planting of trees as a mark of love, respect and honour for mothers and planting of more than 120 crore seedlings has been achieved under this initiative.

Besides, funds under Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA) are utilized for afforestation and related activities. The Ministry, on special occasions like International Day of Forests, World Environment Day, *Van Mahotsav*, Wildlife Week, etc., promotes participation and involvement of citizens and related agencies in mass tree plantation programmes on a voluntary basis.

The unrestricted exploitation of natural resources in the country is being controlled through enforcement of the relevant Acts/Rules/regulations.
