

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3087
TO BE ANSWERED ON 27.03.2025

Aravalli Green Wall Project

3087. SHRI NARAIN DASS GUPTA:

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

- (a) the detailed breakdown of the ₹16,053 crore allocated for Phase-1 of the Aravalli Green Wall Project;
- (b) the manner in which the budget would be distributed among States other than Rajasthan including Delhi, Gujarat and Haryana;
- (c) the measures to ensure long-term afforestation success and prevent encroachments;
- (d) the steps to curb illegal mining and impact assessments conducted;
- (e) the role of local communities and incentives for participation;
- (f) the manner in which project success will be monitored and whether progress reports will be made public; and
- (g) the primary reasons for erosion of 42 per cent (27 lakh hectares) of land within the buffer zone, as identified in the action plan?

ANSWER

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

- (a) & (b) The Aravalli Landscape Restoration i.e. Aravalli Green Wall Project, aims to follow an integrated landscape approach in eco-restoration, focusing on improving the overall ecology of the landscape. The initial priority has been given to the eco-restoration of degraded forest area. Based on the extent of ongoing programs/schemes of the Central and State Governments, the initiative is being taken up in convergence with ongoing schemes/programs i.e. Green India Mission, CAMPA, MGNREGA, State Plan, Externally Aided Project etc. The State Forest Department is the nodal agency for ensuring convergence and smooth implementation of eco-restoration activities.
- (c) & (d) Protection and management of lands including forests are primarily the responsibility of State Governments /Union Territory Administrations. There are strong legal frameworks for protection and management of land including forests under various acts and rules such as Indian Forest Act, 1927, Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986, Biological Diversity Act, 2002 etc; along with relevant State Acts. The State Governments /UT Administrations take appropriate

actions in accordance with the provisions made under these Acts/ Rules for protection and conservation of land including forest land. The Supreme Court of India has acknowledged the importance of the Aravalli ranges in several judgments, issuing rulings to prevent mining, construction activities, and encroachment. Over the years, numerous organizations and government bodies have initiated efforts to enhance and safeguard the Aravalli ecosystems. Initiatives such as watershed conservation projects in Alwar, protection and maintenance of wildlife reserves like Sariska and Ranthambore Tiger Reserve, and restoration works around Bharatpur Sanctuary have yielded positive results.

- (e) & (f) Local communities play a vital role in eco-restoration by fostering local ownership, providing valuable knowledge, and ensuring long-term sustainability through participation in all stages of restoration projects, from planning to implementation and maintenance, in addition to benefitting from the employment and livelihood opportunities generated. Three level monitoring system i.e. through periodic progress reports from the States; remote sensing analysis of latest forest cover data from Forest Survey of India and; third party monitoring are effective tools for monitoring and implementation of eco-restoration projects.

- (g) The main drivers of land degradation in the Aravallis are vegetation and soil degradation due to anthropogenic and climatic factors, along with wind erosion, water erosion, salinity etc.
