

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3088
TO BE ANSWERED ON 27.03.2025

Deforestation and planting of new trees

3088. DR. SASMIT PATRA:
SHRI SANDEEP KUMAR PATHAK:

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

- (a) the number of trees cut from the forests of country between 2019 and 2024 for mining of coal and other major minerals or for national highways and expressways along with the number of forests from which these trees were cut, the details thereof, State-wise, district-wise and forest-wise including Odisha;
- (b) the number of new trees that were planted after the cutting down of the said forests;
- (c) the number of those trees which have not been cut as yet; and
- (d) the number of trees among those that were planted at least three years ago, the details thereof, State-wise, district-wise, mineral-wise and forest-wise?

ANSWER

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

- (a) to d) The proposals for diversion of forest land including those for mining of coal and other major minerals or for construction of national highways and expressways are considered for approval under the provisions of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980. The diversion of forest land is allowed with adequate mitigation measures including the raising of Compensatory Afforestation (CA) and payment of Net Present Value (NPV). The additional mitigation measures in the form of Soil and Moisture Conservation works, Catchment Area Plan and Wildlife Management plan etc. are also stipulated on case-to-case basis.

The permission for felling of trees is given by the concerned State/UT under various Acts, Rules, Guidelines and the directions of Hon'ble Courts. The States/UTs concerned have to ensure that minimum number of trees are felled in a phased manner as per requirement. The Compensatory Afforestation (CA) is also raised by the concerned State/UT Forest Department and the number of trees planted depends upon the site conditions and the existing density of vegetation in the given area. Further, the land is a state subject and the detail of the trees felled and the trees planted is not maintained at the level of the Ministry.
