GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2140
TO BE ANSWERED ON 07.08.2025

Afforestation and emission reduction

2140.   SHRI SAMIRUL ISLAM:

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

(a)   the total forest cover added since 2020;
(b)   the projects cleared under Forest Clearance;
(c)   the emission reduction progress under National Action Plan on Climate Change; and
(d)   the afforestation schemes in West Bengal vs national average?

ANSWER

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

(a)   Forest Survey of India (FSI), Dehradun, an organization under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, carries out the assessment of forest and tree cover of the country biennially and the findings are published in the India State of Forest Report (ISFR). The forest cover assessment is a wall-to-wall mapping exercise based on remote sensing supported by intensive ground verification and field data from the National Forest Inventory. The forest cover between ISFR 2021 (data of year 2019-2020) and ISFR 2023 (data of the year 2021-2022) has increased by 156.41 square kilometer.

(b)   During the period 2020-2025, 10,026 number of proposals involving diversion of 96450.07 ha of forest land for non-forestry purpose under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 have been approved across all the States/ UTs.

(c)   The Government of India is combating climate change through several programs and schemes. This includes implementation of the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC), which comprises missions in specific areas of solar energy, energy efficiency, water, agriculture, the Himalayan ecosystem, sustainable habitat, green India, strategic knowledge on climate change, and human health. The NAPCC provides an overarching framework for all climate actions.

India submitted its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) under the Paris Agreement in 2015 and updated it in August 2022, setting enhanced targets; reducing emissions intensity of GDP by 45% by 2030 from 2005 levels, achieving 50% cumulative electric power installed capacity from non-fossil fuel sources, and creating an additional carbon sink of 2.5 to 3 billion tonnes of CO_2 equivalent through increased forest and tree cover.

The NDC also promotes sustainable lifestyles under the LIFE' initiative, development, climate adaptation, and capacity building.

India has achieved its NDC goal of the share of non-fossil fuel-based power generation capacity, which stands at 50.07% as of June 30, 2025. From 2005 to 2020, the emission intensity of the GDP declined by 36%, and between 2005 and 2021, India created an additional carbon sink of 2.29 billion tonnes CO_2 equivalent from forest and tree cover, reaffirming its commitment to equitable climate action.

(d) The Ministry provides technical and financial support to the States /UTs for protection, conservation and management of the forests in the country. This includes funds from the Central Government under various schemes and programmes such as National Mission for a Green India (GIM), Forest Fire Prevention and Management Scheme (FPM), Nagar Van Yojana (NVY), Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats, and Mangrove Initiative for Shoreline Habitats and Tangible Incomes (MISHTI). The Goverement of West Bengal has been receiving funds under all of these schemes as per the Annual Plan of Operations submitted by them.

Further, a plantation campaign "एक पेड़ माँ के नाम #Plant4Mother" has been launched on the occasion of World Environment Day 2024 and also during the current year to undertake plantation activities across the country. This campaign follows the "Whole of Government" and "Whole of Society" approach with participation of all stakeholders for increasing the green cover in the country. The campaign has contributed large scale plantation aiding the enhancement of green cover in the country including West Bengal.

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