

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1322
TO BE ANSWERED ON 11.12.2025

Diversion of forest land in Odisha

1322. DR. SASMIT PATRA :

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

- (a) whether Government has recently approved proposals for diversion of forest land in Odisha for mining and infrastructure projects in Sundargarh, Keonjhar and Angul, despite documented ecological sensitivity and tribal habitation;
- (b) if so, the details of compensatory afforestation, CAMPA fund utilisation, wildlife protection, rehabilitation and consent procedures mandated, including compliance status; and
- (c) the steps taken to safeguard legally identified elephant corridors and reduce escalating human-wildlife conflict in Odisha, including scientific corridor demarcation, early warning systems, habitat restoration, community compensation and independent monitoring mechanisms?

ANSWER

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

- (a) As per the provisions of the Van (Sanrakshashan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980, the Central Government can give prior approval for diversion of forest land for non forestry purposes. Accordingly, in Sundargarh, Keonjhar, and Angul districts of Odisha, prior approvals have been granted for mining and infrastructure projects. Such proposals are considered only when duly recommended proposals are submitted by the State/UT, which are considered for approval under the Van (Sanrakshashan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 after due diligence to minimize forest use. Where diversion is unavoidable, approval is subject to conditions including Compensatory Afforestation (CA), payment of Net Present Value (NPV), and, wherever necessary, additional measures such as Soil and Moisture Conservation, Wildlife Management Plans, and Catchment Area Treatment (CAT) Plans are stipulated by the Central Government. Compliance with the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 is also ensured by the State concerned before handing over the land for non-forestry use.
- (b) The details of the compensatory afforestation carried out during financial year 2020-21 to 2024-25 and status of funds approved by National Compensatory Afforestation Management and

Planning Authority for the FY 2020-21 to 2024-25 in respect of State of Odisha is enclosed at **Annexure-1**.

CAMPA funds are utilized for forest improvement, wildlife protection, ecological services, and related activities such as regeneration, infrastructure development, and the Green India Programme. Plantations raised under compensatory afforestation are monitored as per the Compensatory Afforestation Fund Act, 2016 and Rules made thereunder, ensuring transparency, accountability, and effective oversight.

(c) The management of wildlife including mitigation and management of human-elephant conflict (HEC) is primarily the responsibility of State Government/UT Administration. The State Forest Departments work with the local people to address the HEC issues through periodic awareness campaigns to sensitize, guide and advise the general public on human-animal conflict including dissemination of information through various forms of media. Further, State Forest Departments engage with local communities to prevent damage or loss of human life, property and elephants.

The Central Government also provides financial assistance to State Governments/UTs Administration under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme Project Tiger & Elephant (CSS-PT&E) for protection of elephants, their habitat and corridors, to address issues of human-elephant conflict and welfare of captive elephants in the country.

Annexure referred to in reply of Part (b) of Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No.1322 due for answer on 11.12.2025 asked by Dr. Sasmit Patra regarding “Diversion of forest land in Odisha”.

Annexure-1

Compensatory Afforestation done in Odisha from FY 2020-21 to 2024-25

(Area in Ha.)

2020-21		2021-22		2022-23		2023-24		2024-25	
Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement
4208.521	3802.2	3610.19	3501.45	6130.81	4632.86	1962.91	1628.66	19540.451	16964.78

Status of funds approved by National CAMPA for the FY 2020-21 to 2024-25 for Odisha

(Rs in Crores)

2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
773.39	901.03	1191.31	948.04	1112.93
