

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 526
TO BE ANSWERED ON 04.12.2025

Implementation and expansion of Green Credit Programme

526. SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR RAY:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that green credits have been rolled out only for one out of the seven activities under the Green Credit Programme and, if so, the reasons therefor;
- (b) the details of timeline for expanding the green credit to other components of the programme; and
- (c) the manner in which the programme aligns with and safeguards with the rights of Gram Sabhas and forest dwellers as provided under the Forest Rights Act, 2006?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (b) The Central Government has notified Green Credit Rules, 2023 on 12th October 2023 under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 to encourage voluntary environmental positive actions resulting in issuance of Green Credits.

Under the Green Credit programme the tree plantation and eco-restoration of degraded forest lands have been initiated.

(c) The Green Credit Programme aims to restore degraded forest lands through the active participation of public and private sector entities. The degraded forest land parcels proposed to be taken up under the Green Credit Programme are selected by the State Forest Department after due verification on the ground. While implementing the programme, participating entities will not hold any ownership or usufruct rights over the forest areas.

The forest restoration activities under the programme aim to enhance biodiversity and improve the ecological health and productivity of forest resources. The restoration of degraded forest lands aims to benefit local communities by increasing the availability of timber, non-timber forest produce, fodder, water, and other ecosystem services.

Hence, program does not interfere with the provisions of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006.
