

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2296**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 12.03.2026

**Reforming Indian Forest Service**

2296. DR. M. DHANAPAL:

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

- (a) whether Government has reviewed the calls for reforming the Indian Forest Service (IFS) to align its mandate with 21<sup>st</sup>-century environmental challenges, including water security, climate resilience, biodiversity conservation and ecosystem services, beyond its traditional colonial-era policing role;
- (b) if so, the details of assessments made by Government on expanding the role and responsibilities of IFS Officers in ecological outcomes such as groundwater recharge and forest stream revival; and
- (c) the action plan proposed by Government to modernise the forest service's framework?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) to (c): Officers inducted into the Indian Forest Service (IFS) undergo structured and professional training programmes. Direct recruit IFS officers undergo a two-year training programme conducted at the Indira Gandhi National Forest Academy, Dehradun and the Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration, Mussoorie, and on-the-job training in their respective State cadres. The Indian Forest Service (Probationers' Training and Evaluation) Rules, 2023 were notified to establish a structured framework for the training, assessment and professional development of IFS probationers. The revised curriculum incorporates subjects such as climate change, biodiversity conservation, ecosystem services, watershed management and environmental governance. Emphasis is also placed on field-based learning and practical exposure to enable officers to better understand and address emerging environmental challenges. The State Forest Service officers upon induction into the Indian Forest Service also undergo an induction training conducted by the Indira Gandhi National Forest Academy, Dehradun.

Officers of the Indian Forest Service also undergo Mid-Career Training Programmes to enhance their professional, managerial, and leadership capabilities at different stages of their career. These programmes include multidisciplinary modules aimed at strengthening technical and operational management skills, developing leadership and policy-oriented capacities, and equipping officers for strategic decision-making and roles in national and international environmental policy.

The Ministry also conducts short-term training programmes and workshops to support continuous professional development of IFS officers during their careers.

The Academic Council constituted under the Indian Forest Service (Probationers' Training and Evaluation) Rules, 2023 undertakes the monitoring, assessment, feedback, and periodic review of the training programme for IFS officers so as to ensure that the training remains relevant and updated.

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