

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 70
TO BE ANSWERED ON 29.01.2026

Forest conservation in Odisha

70. SHRI MUZIBULLA KHAN:

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

- (a) the current forest cover in Odisha as per the latest assessment;
- (b) the steps taken to prevent deforestation in mining-affected districts;
- (c) the measures to involve tribal communities in forest conservation;
- (d) the funds allocated under CAMPA to the State during the last three years; and
- (e) the progress of afforestation programmes in the State?

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. As per the latest ISFR 2023, Odisha has a forest cover of 52,433.56 square kilometer.
- (b) To prevent deforestation in mining-affected districts, the Government has put in place regulatory and monitoring mechanisms under the Van (Sanrakshan evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, including prior approval for diversion of forest land, imposition of specific conditions while granting approvals, and mandatory compensatory afforestation. Reclamation and rehabilitation of mined-out areas are undertaken as per approved mining and restoration plans. Compliance of stipulated conditions is monitored by the State Forest Department through periodic field inspections, use of remote sensing tools and submission of compliance reports. Compensatory afforestation and allied forest restoration activities are carried out using funds available under Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA).
- (c) Tribal communities are involved in forest conservation through institutional mechanisms such as Joint Forest Management Committees/Vana Samrakshan Samitis. These communities participate in protection, regeneration and management of forest areas. Employment opportunities are provided to local tribal population in afforestation, assisted natural regeneration, nursery raising and maintenance activities. Capacity-building programmes are undertaken and sustainable livelihood options, including management and value addition of minor forest produce, are promoted to encourage community participation in forest conservation.

(d) & (e) An outlay of ₹1,191.31 crore in 2022–23, ₹948.04 crore in 2023–24 and ₹1,112.93 crore in 2024–25 has been approved by National CAMPA to the State of Odisha under CAMPA.

For afforestation activities, the Ministry provides technical and financial support to States and UTs through various schemes and programmes of the Central Government including protection, conservation and management of forests in the country. This includes the National Mission for a Green India (GIM), Nagar Van Yojana (NVY), Mangrove Initiative for Shoreline Habitats and Tangible Incomes (MISHTI) in addition to initiatives undertaken by the State of Odisha.

Further, a plantation campaign “एक पेड़ माँ के नाम #Plant4Mother” has also been launched on the occasion of World Environment Day 2024 and in the current year also to undertake plantation activities across the country including State of Odisha. 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.

As reported by the State Government of Odisha cumulatively during 2022–23, 2023–24 and 2024–25, a total of 1,675.17 lakh seedlings have been planted covering 2,37,239.31 hectares under various afforestation and plantation schemes .
