

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 712
TO BE ANSWERED ON 05.02.2026

Deforestation in Chhattisgarh

712. SMT. PHULO DEVI NETAM:

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

- (a) the forest area (in hectares) diverted for the mining projects, including details of primary rainforest and biodiversity-rich zones cleared or proposed to be cleared;
- (b) whether Government has conducted a cumulative environmental impact assessment of the project, considering its potential effects on indigenous communities, marine ecosystems and endemic species; and
- (c) whether the compensatory afforestation proposed under the Forest (Conservation) Act has been completed and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

(a) and (b) During the period 2020-21 to 2024-25, the Central Government has granted prior approval under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for diversion of 18,913.64 hectares of forest land for mining projects across various States and UTs, covering various forest types.

In accordance with the provisions of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 and the rules framed thereunder, proposals received from the State Governments are comprehensively examined by the Advisory Committee constituted under Section 3 of the Adhiniyam. Such examination includes due diligence in assessing the direct and indirect impacts of diversion of forest land for non-forestry purposes on forests, wildlife, and the environment. Keeping in view the impact of the project on flora and fauna, additional mitigation measures such as Soil and Moisture Conservation works, Wildlife Management Plans, and Catchment Area Treatment (CAT) Plans are stipulated on a case-to-case basis, wherever necessary.

It is mandatory for all coal mining projects to obtain Environmental Clearance (EC) under the provisions of the Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification, 2006, for which a detailed Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) study is conducted. The EIA study for coal mining projects assesses environmental impacts such as changes in land-use patterns, and levels of dust, air, water, and noise pollution. Based on this assessment, a comprehensive Environmental Management Plan (EMP) is formulated, incorporating safeguards including dust suppression measures, water and noise pollution control measures, concurrent plantation to compensate for loss of flora, implementation of wildlife management plans to mitigate adverse impacts on fauna, afforestation of safety zones, phased reclamation of mined-out areas,

and redressal of concerns that emerge during the public consultation process, all of which are required to be undertaken by the project proponent.

(c) Compensatory Afforestation activities are implemented in accordance with the approved Annual Plan of Operations (APO), duly conforming to the provisions of the Compensatory Afforestation Fund Act, 2016 and the CAF Rules, 2018, as well as the guidelines issued under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980. The State/UTs wise details of Compensatory Afforestation undertaken from 2020-21 to 2024-25 is given in **Annexure-I**.

Annexure-I						
Annexure referred to in the reply of part (c) of the Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 712 asked by Smt. Phulo Devi Netam regarding Deforestation in Chhattisgarh						
Compensatory Afforestation from 2020-21 to 2024-25						
Area (in ha.)						
S. No.	State/UT	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
1.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	0	0	36.56	95.47	132.03
2.	Andhra Pradesh	500.91	485.11	708.54	311.12	3471.88
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	1793.93	11608.44	4458.67	2858.42	20719.46
4.	Assam	652.578	114.5	0	382.56	1149.64
5.	Bihar	1661.51	0	0	1321.09	3171.67
6.	Chandigarh	-	0.79	0.18	-	0.97
7.	Chhattisgarh	2963.34	1541.69	465.2	467.74	7039.23
8.	Delhi	47.54	23.02	72.06	37.34	179.96
9.	Goa	200	200	299	470	1209
10.	Gujarat	1019.85	3646.72	4584.53	2004.94	14103.32
11.	Haryana	1240.06	1870.22	1608.86	Nil	5012.91
12.	Himachal Pradesh	876	899	885	888	4073
13.	Jammu & Kashmir	3545	306	1360.71	262.08	6434.79
14.	Jharkhand	2734.49	3324.86	3202.83	2789.84	15739.27
15.	Karnataka	188.03	522.77	715.01	720.29	2761.26
16.	Kerala	11.7	42.84	0	117.26	171.8
17.	Ladakh	-	-	-	-	21746.82
18.	Madhya Pradesh	3892.66	3585.66	3457.22	5301.66	4316.74
19.	Maharashtra	633.57	218.351	182.27	544.384	666.94
20.	Manipur	666.94	0	0	0	114.56
21.	Meghalaya	Nil	Nil	114.56	0	2570.24
22.	Mizoram	1236.5	1303.78	29.96	Nil	0
23.	Odisha	3802.2	3501.45	4632.86	1628.66	16964.78
24.	Punjab	311.99	644.995	800.38	940.38	4019.72
25.	Rajasthan	2147.85	808.52	444.79	1365.4	7377.15
26.	Sikkim	106.04	183.98	94.67	53.19	609.52
27.	Tamil Nadu	0	0	82.57	0	84.76
28.	Telangana	4178.16	2490.07	2052.71	551.12	13686.57
29.	Tripura	182.8	391.86	566.4	669.85	2295.23
30.	Uttar Pradesh	1136.58	1091.43	1604.68	1288.6	5877.16
31.	Uttarakhand	2325.61	2738.62	2448.71	1697.24	11812.89
32.	West Bengal	122.42	282.03	106.17	139.92	748.25