

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. *204
TO BE ANSWERED ON 06.08.2026

Forest conservation and its impact

*204. SMT. SANGEETA YADAV:

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

- (a) whether Government has undertaken any assessment of progress made towards the target of creating an additional carbon sink of 2.5–3 billion tonnes of CO₂ equivalent through enhanced forest and tree cover and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the measures taken to improve the quality of degraded forests through afforestation, ecological restoration and landscape-based conservation programmes during the last three years;
- (c) whether Government has developed any technology-enabled monitoring system, including remote sensing and GIS-based platforms, for real-time monitoring of afforestation and forest restoration activities; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI BHUPENDER YADAV)

(a) to (d): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) to (D) IN RESPECT OF
RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 204 DUE FOR REPLY ON 06.08.2026
REGARDING FOREST CONSERVATION AND ITS IMPACT ASKED BY SMT.
SANGEETA YADAV**

(a) to (d): Forest Survey of India (FSI), Dehradun, an organization under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, carries out the assessment of forest resources, including forest carbon stock of the country, biennially and publishes the findings in the India State of Forest Report (ISFR). The 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.

The forest and tree cover of the country has continuously increased over the last decade. Forest and tree cover registered a net increase of 37,378 square kilometers in ISFR 2023, as compared to ISFR 2013.

As per the Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Inventory for the year 2022, reported in India's First Biennial Transparency Report submitted to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). India has achieved 2.44 billion tonnes of carbon sequestration from forest and tree cover by 2022 against the target of sequestering an additional 2.5-3 billion tonnes of CO₂ equivalent through increased forest and tree cover by 2030 over the base year of 2005.

The quality of degraded forests is improved through afforestation, ecological restoration and landscape-based conservation activities undertaken by the States/UTs under various schemes, programmes and initiatives of the Ministry. These include the National Mission for a Green India (Green India Mission) under the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC), Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA), Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats (IDWH), Forest Fire Prevention and Management (FFPM) Scheme, Mangrove Initiative for Shoreline Habitats & Tangible Incomes (MISHTI), Nagar Van Yojana and other afforestation and ecological restoration programmes implemented by the States/UTs. The forest and tree cover of the country, including the changes up to the district level, are published by the FSI in the ISFR based on remote sensing techniques, satellite imageries with Geographic Information System (GIS) and ground truthing.

Further, the geo-spatial polygons of the plantation sites identified for compensatory afforestation are uploaded in the e-Green Watch Portal by the respective State Governments and UT Administrations. The monitoring of plantation sites uploaded on the e-Green Watch Portal is carried out by the Forest Survey of India using geospatial analysis of high-resolution satellite imagery.
