

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1331
TO BE ANSWERED ON 30.07.2026

Afforestation programmes vis-a-vis climate change

1331. SHRI S.R. SIVALINGAM:

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

- (a) whether Government has examined the role of tree plantation as a nature-based solution for addressing climate change, particularly with regard to carbon sequestration, biodiversity conservation, ecosystem restoration and enhancement of ecological resilience across different regions of the country;
- (b) if so, the details of afforestation and reforestation programmes undertaken by Government, including area covered, species selection, community participation and measures adopted for improving forest and tree cover; and
- (c) the policy measures proposed to be taken by Government to ensure scientifically planned, ecologically sustainable and climate-resilient plantation practices nationwide?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c): Tree plantation and ecological restoration are important nature-based solutions for addressing climate change through enhanced carbon sequestration, biodiversity conservation, ecosystem restoration and improved ecological resilience. The Ministry promotes afforestation, reforestation and eco-restoration under various Centrally Sponsored and Central Sector schemes/programmes in consultation with the States and Union Territories, taking into account local ecological conditions and conservation priorities.

The Government is implementing several programmes such as the National Mission for a Green India (Green India Mission-GIM), the Mangrove Initiative for Shoreline Habitats & Tangible Incomes (MISHTI), Nagar Van Yojana and Compensatory Afforestation (CA) under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980.

Under the Green India Mission, plantation and eco-restoration activities have been undertaken over 1,84,467 hectares through community participation, with plantation species selected based on site-specific ecological conditions and emphasis on indigenous and suitable species. Under the Nagar Van Yojana, projects covering 19,348.59 hectares have been approved during 2020-21 to 2025-26, including 3,712.36 hectares during 2025-26. MISHTI, launched in 2023, has taken up restoration of 9,536 hectares of degraded mangrove areas. Afforestation activities are also supported through National CAMPA in accordance with approved management plans and guidelines and under the Compensatory Afforestation programme, during 2019-20 to 2024-25, afforestation has been carried out over 2,00,407.56

hectares across the States and Union Territories. As per the India State of Forest Report (ISFR) 2023, the total forest and tree cover of the country stands at 25.17% of the geographical area as compared to 24.62% reported in ISFR 2021. Further, the country's forest carbon stock, which is an important quantitative target under India's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC), has increased by 81.5 million tonnes during the period from 2021 to 2023. As against the target of creating an additional carbon sink of 2.5 to 3.0 billion tonnes of CO₂ equivalent through additional forest and tree cover by 2030 over the base year 2005, the country has already created an additional carbon sink of 2.44 billion tonnes of CO₂ equivalent by 2022, indicating substantial progress towards achieving the NDC target.

The Government promotes scientifically planned and ecologically appropriate plantation practices by encouraging the use of indigenous and site-specific species, implementing plantations in accordance with approved scientific working and management plans, facilitating community participation through Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMCs) and other participatory mechanisms, and monitoring plantation activities in accordance with the provisions of the respective schemes and approved management plans.
