

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1337
TO BE ANSWERED ON 30.07.2026

PRAMAAN scheme for certification

1337. SMT. SANGEETA YADAV:

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

- (a) whether Government has operationalised the Indian Forest and Wood Certification Scheme (IFWCS)–PRAMAAN to promote sustainable management of forests and trees outside forests;
- (b) the salient features, objectives and certification categories under the scheme;
- (c) the institutional mechanism for implementation, including the roles of the Indian Forest and Wood Certification Council (IFWCC), Indian Institute of Forest Management (IIFM), National Accreditation Board for Certification Bodies (NABCB) and Certification Bodies;
- (d) the number of certifications issued since the launch of the scheme, State-wise; and
- (e) the measures taken to promote adoption of the scheme and enhance market access for certified Indian wood and agroforestry products?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (e) : The Government has operationalised the Indian Forest and Wood Certification Scheme (IFWCS)–PRAMAAN in December, 2023 to promote sustainable management of forests and Trees Outside Forests (ToF). The Scheme is a voluntary, third-party, market-based national certification framework aimed at promoting sustainable forest management, responsible management of Trees Outside Forests, and improving the domestic and international market acceptance of certified forest and agroforestry products.

The objectives of the Scheme are to encourage sustainable management of forests and Trees Outside Forests, ensure sourcing of timber, wood and non-wood forest products from legal and sustainable sources through product traceability. The Scheme provides certification under three categories, namely, Forest Management (FM), Trees Outside Forest Management (ToFM) and Chain of Custody (CoC).

The IFWCS is implemented through a hierarchical institutional framework overseen by the Indian Forest and Wood Certification Council (IFWCC). The Indian Institute of Forest Management (IIFM), as the Scheme Operating Agency, facilitates the development of standards, certification processes and stakeholder coordination. The National Accreditation Board for Certification Bodies (NABCB) accredits Certification Bodies in accordance with the Scheme requirements and established accreditation norms. The Certification Bodies assess compliance of applicants with the Scheme requirements and grant certification upon successful completion of the certification process.

Since the launch of the Scheme, the certification process has been completed for two projects, namely, the first project belonged to the Andhra Pradesh Forest Development Corporation Ltd. for Forest Management and Chain of Custody; and the second one was from private sector, although funded by the Odisha Bamboo Development Agency for Trees Outside Forest Management and Chain of Custody.

The Government has taken measures to promote adoption of the Scheme through stakeholder consultations, capacity building programmes, awareness and outreach activities, engagement with State Forest Departments and industry, and collaboration with relevant national and international organisations to facilitate market access for certified forest and agroforestry products.
