

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2138
TO BE ANSWERED ON 06.08.2026

Survival of planted trees

2138. SHRI S.R. SIVALINGAM:

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

- (a) the assessment made by Government regarding the importance of long-term maintenance, monitoring and survival rates of planted trees in plantation programmes;
- (b) the mechanisms established by Government for tracking the survival and growth of planted saplings across different regions;
- (c) the accountability framework adopted by Government for evaluating plantation outcomes and utilisation of public funds;
- (d) the challenges encountered by Government in ensuring sustained survival of planted trees after plantation drives; and
- (e) the initiatives proposed to be taken by Government to improve survival rates and secure long-term ecological benefits from plantation programmes?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (e): Afforestation and tree plantation in the country are undertaken by the States/Union Territories through various programmes and schemes of the Central and State Governments, as well as by local bodies, civil society organisations, the private sector and communities. Maintenance, protection and monitoring of plantations are important for achieving the intended ecological outcomes. Accordingly, plantation programmes provide for post-planting operations such as watering, weeding, soil and moisture conservation, protection from fire and grazing, and casualty replacement, as applicable under the respective scheme/programme guidelines and site-specific conditions. Maintenance and monitoring of plantations are primarily undertaken by the concerned implementing agencies and State/Union Territory Governments through field inspections and technology-based mechanisms, as applicable.

Implementation of plantation activities and utilisation of funds are governed by the guidelines of the respective schemes/programmes. Implementing agencies are required to maintain records of physical and financial progress and furnish prescribed reports and utilisation documents. Field inspections and third-party evaluation/verification, wherever provided under the respective schemes/programmes, supplement these monitoring mechanisms.

Survival of plantations varies depending upon agro-climatic and site-specific conditions, including rainfall, availability of soil moisture, drought, forest fires, grazing and other biotic pressures, incidence of pests and diseases, and suitability of species to local conditions. Therefore, a uniform survival rate across different ecological and climatic regions of the

country is not prescribed. Plantation programmes supported by the Ministry emphasise site-specific planning, appropriate species selection, soil and moisture conservation, post-planting maintenance, protection and community participation, as applicable under the respective scheme/programme guidelines, with a view to achieving sustained ecological outcomes.
