

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2142
TO BE ANSWERED ON 06.08.2026

Community participation under Green Credit Programme

2142. SMT. DARSHANA SINGH:

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

- (a) whether Government is developing any specific mechanism under the Green Credit Programme to enhance the participation of Gram Panchayats, Urban Local Bodies and Self-Help Groups;
- (b) whether any incentive policy has been formulated to encourage community participation under the programme;
- (c) whether Government has conducted any study on socio-economic impacts of this programme; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (b): The Green Credit Programme aims to restore degraded forest lands through the active participation of individuals, public entities and private sector entities. Hence, these entities may participate in the programme and contribute to the eco-restoration of forests.

Further, the Green Credit Programme is an innovative mechanism to incentivise environmentally positive actions and to promote the objectives of Mission LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment) movement, which aims at encouraging sustainable lifestyles by driving community towards behavioural changes that support environment-friendly actions.

The Central Government has notified the Green Credit Rules, 2023 on 12th October 2023 under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 to encourage voluntary environmental positive actions, resulting in issuance of Green Credits.

The restoration of degraded forest lands aims to benefit local communities by increasing the availability of timber, non-timber forest produce, fodder, water, and other ecosystem services, thereby generating shared ecological and livelihood benefits at the local level.

(c) to (d): The Green Credit Programme (GCP) is currently in the initial stages of implementation. Plantation and eco-restoration activities have been initiated in the respective States on selected degraded forest land parcels across the country. Under the Green Credit Programme, the designated agency conducts detailed verification of the activities undertaken upon receipt of a claim for Green Credits from the applicant and submits a verification report to the Administrator for consideration of the issuance of Green Credits.
