

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2144
TO BE ANSWERED ON 06.08.2026

Restoration of Saranda forest

2144. SHRI NATHWANI PARIMAL:

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

- (a) the measures taken for conservation and ecological restoration of Saranda forest in Jharkhand including the funds allocated during the last five years;
- (b) whether any assessment has been carried out regarding biodiversity, elephant habitats and forest fragmentation there; and
- (c) the details of afforestation and habitat restoration undertaken?

ANSWER

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

(a) and (b): As per information received from the State Government of Jharkhand, during last five years the afforestation and ecological restoration works namely, silviculture operation, assisted natural regeneration, bamboo plantation and compensatory afforestation, soil and water conservation structures, etc. have been undertaken in the Saranda Forests. The State Government of Jharkhand has also reported that during the last five years an amount of Rs. 1799.36 lakh has been allocated for conservation, afforestation and ecological restoration activities in the Saranda forest areas.

Further, a study of the Saranda region was carried out by Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE), Dehradun to assess biodiversity values, wildlife populations, elephant corridors, measures for mitigating impacts on flora and fauna, sustainable mining limits, etc.

(c): As informed by the State Government of Jharkhand, in addition to ecological restoration measures such as silvicultural operations, assisted natural regeneration, bamboo plantations, compensatory afforestation, and soil and water conservation works, etc. several wildlife conservation initiatives have been undertaken in the Saranda forests. These include in-situ habitat and elephant corridor management, deployment of Quick Response Teams (QRTs), Elephant Squads, and Elephant Trackers, elephant rescue through Mobile Veterinary Units, and thermal drone-based monitoring to strengthen wildlife protection, particularly elephant conservation. Further, habitat quality has been improved through watershed management, construction of check dams and ponds to augment water availability, augmentation of natural salt licks, and installation of light- and sound-based early warning systems to mitigate human-elephant conflict.
