

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2148
TO BE ANSWERED ON 06.08.2026

Coverage of Green Credit Programme

2148. SHRI ASHOKRAO SHANKARRAO CHAVAN:

SHRI RAJINDER GUPTA:

SHRI SUBHASH BARALA:

SHRI BRIJ LAL:

SHRI SANJAY BHATIA:

SHRI SHAMBHU SHARAN PATEL:

SHRI MITHLESH KUMAR:

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

- (a) whether Government has conducted any assessment of ecological outcomes and environmental benefits achieved under the Green Credit Programme since its implementation, and if so, the findings thereof;
- (b) whether Government has developed a framework for monitoring, verification and long-term ecological assessment of activities undertaken under the Programme;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether Government proposes to expand the scope of the Programme beyond tree plantation and water conservation to cover other environmental sectors; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c): 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 Green Credit Programme aims to increase green cover, enhance carbon sequestration, restore degraded lands and reduce carbon footprint through the adoption of environment-friendly technologies and practices.

The Green Credit Programme aims to restore degraded forest lands through the active participation of public and private sector entities. The degraded forest land parcels proposed to be taken up under the Green Credit Programme are selected and registered by the State Forest Department after due verification on the ground.

The Green Credits can be claimed by an applicant only after minimum five years of restoration work have been completed and a minimum canopy density of forty per cent has been achieved. A five-year establishment period is prescribed to allow the planted seedlings and natural regenerations to mature and develop adequate canopy cover, so as to achieve the prescribed 40 per cent canopy density, corresponding to a moderately dense forest.

The "designated agency" designated under the Green Credit Programme shall conduct verification of the claim for the Green Credits and submit report to the Administrator as regard to the verification of the activities undertaken by an applicant for issuance of green credit.

A comprehensive Manual on Monitoring and Reporting of Restoration Activities under the Green Credit Programme has been developed to facilitate effective implementation and monitoring of the programme.

(d) & (e): Currently, under the Green Credit Programme, the modalities for undertaking tree plantation and eco-restoration of degraded forest lands have been notified.
