

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2151
TO BE ANSWERED ON 06.08.2026

Implementation of Green Credit Programme

2151. SHRI GOVINDBHAI LALJIBHAI DHOLAKIA:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Green Credit Programme was implemented in the country in 2023;
- (b) the achievements of the Programme, so far;
- (c) the number of States in which the Programme has been implemented by the State Governments and the areas, in hectares, covered thereunder;
- (d) the measures being taken by the Central Government for effective implementation of the Programme in coordination with the State Governments; and
- (e) the plan of Government to implement the Programme across the country?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c): 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. Under the Green Credit Programme, the modality for tree plantation and eco-restoration of degraded forest lands has been notified on 22nd February 2024 and subsequently revised on 29th August 2025. A Green Credit Programme Portal (<https://moefcc-gcp.in/>) has been developed for implementation of the programme.

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.

Under the old modality notified on 22nd February 2024, eco-restoration has been initiated in 225 land parcels covering about 4,391 hectares.

Further, under the revised modalities notified on 29th August, 2025, a total of 54 degraded forest land parcels covering 1,194 hectares have been approved across four States. Of these, seven land parcels covering 222 hectares in three States have been selected by entities for undertaking eco-restoration activities.

(d) and (e): The Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education, Dehradun is the Administrator under the Green Credit Programme and is responsible for the effective implementation of the Green Credit Programme, including its management, operation and issuance of green credits under these rules across all States and Union Territories.

The Green Credits can be claimed by an applicant only after a minimum of 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 a report to the Administrator with 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.

The Ministry has been coordinating with all State Governments and UT Administrations to actively promote the Green Credit Programme for restoration of degraded forest lands across the Country.
