

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 535
TO BE ANSWERED ON 23.07.2026

Afforestation in Uttar Pradesh

535. SHRI SANJAY SETH:

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

- (a) the total hectares of degraded forest land successfully rejuvenated in Uttar Pradesh under the Green India Mission;
- (b) whether the rapid development of 'Nagar Vans' (Urban Forests) has significantly improved the green cover and air quality in major cities of Uttar Pradesh;
- (c) the details of central funds proactively disbursed and utilized by the State for these afforestation drives during 2025-26;
- (d) the successful engagement of local communities and self-help groups in the continuous maintenance of newly planted saplings; and
- (e) the steps taken to integrate geo-tagging and drone surveillance to monitor the survival rates of these plantations accurately?

ANSWER

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

- (a) Implementation of activities under the National Mission for Green India (GIM) in the State of Uttar Pradesh commenced in 2023-24, and an area of 4,202.25 hectares have been taken up so far under eco-restoration.
- (b) The Ministry is implementing Nagar Van Yojana (NVY) which envisages developing 600 Nagar Vans and 400 Nagar Vatikas in the country during the period of 2020-21 to 2026-27 with an objective to significantly enhance the tree outside forests and green cover, enhancement of biodiversity and ecological benefits to the urban and peri-urban areas apart from improving quality of life of city dwellers. Based on the proposals submitted by State Government, the Ministry releases funds from National Authority of CAMPA to cover mainly the cost of fencing, soil-moisture conservation measures & related activities, administrative activities, plantation and maintenance. No specific study has been carried out to assess whether the rapid development of Nagar Vans has significantly improved the green cover and air quality. So far, 39 Nagar Van proposals have been approved for the State of Uttar Pradesh.
- (c) & (d) During the financial year 2025-26, a total amount of ₹9.81 crore, comprising ₹3.30 crore under the National Mission for a Green India (GIM) and ₹6.51 crore under the Nagar Van Yojana, was released to the State for afforestation and eco-restoration activities. Out of the funds released under GIM, the State has reported utilization of ₹3.30 crore. The implementation of these programmes is undertaken by the State Government with the active participation of local communities. Community involvement is ensured through institutions such as Joint Forest

Management Committees (JFMCs), which comprise representatives of local communities and other stakeholders. These committees play a vital role in the planning, implementation, protection, maintenance and monitoring of afforestation and eco-restoration activities, thereby promoting ecological restoration, biodiversity conservation and sustainable management of forest resources.

(e) Monitoring of plantations follows a multi-tiered approach involving both Central and State mechanisms. State Forest Departments undertake annual physical verification and third-party monitoring including *inter alia* through geo-tagged photographs and *.kml* files. Corrective measures, including gap filling and maintenance, are undertaken based on survival assessments. The Ministry also promotes the use of technology-based tools, including geo-tagging and remote sensing, to enhance monitoring accuracy. The Forest Survey of India (FSI) carries out periodic assessments of forest cover and resources. Further, as reported by the Government of Uttar Pradesh, geo-tagging of plantations undertaken during 2025–26 has also been completed.
