

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 6541
TO BE ANSWERED ON 06.04.2018

Afforestation

6541. SHRIMATI REKHA VERMA:

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

- (a) the area of land in hectares taken up for afforestation in Uttar Pradesh against the trees felled for constructing National Highways during each of the last three years;
- (b) whether the Government is aware that artificial afforestation is not a long lasting measure and it cannot be compared with to the decreasing and extincting natural forest;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the corrective measures taken by the Government in this regard?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(DR. MAHESH SHARMA)

- (a) The details of land in hectares taken up for afforestation in Uttar Pradesh against the trees felled for constructing National Highways during each of the last three years are given in **Annexure**.
- (b), (c) & (d) Artificial afforestation carried out under compensatory afforestation provisions of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 does not substitute natural forests and does not compensate the ecological loss instantly. Yet, keeping in view the imperatives of development, and the crucial role played by development projects including highways in the process of development, permission for diversion of forest land is granted under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 only in cases where diversion of forest land is inevitable. Compensatory afforestation is undertaken to minimize the loss of impact of forest diversion in due course of time.

Annexure

Annexure referred to in reply to parts (a) of Lok Sabha UnStarred Question No. 6541 due for reply on 06.04.2018 regarding 'Afforestation' asked by Shrimati Rekha Verma.

Details of Plantation *in lieu* of trees felled for construction of National Highway in Uttar Pradesh during last three years (2015-16 to 2017-18)

Financial Year	No. of National Highway (NH) Proposals (in Nos.)	Compensatory Afforestation (in Ha.) (on double degraded)	Additional No. of seedlings planted		Total (in ha.)
			(In Nos.)	Equivalent (ha.)	
2015-16*	89	190.593	153724	245.958	436.551
2016-17	37	495.011	42452	67.923	562.934
2017-18	32	127.784	80678	129.085	256.869
Total	158	813.388	276854	442.966	1256.354

**This includes some of the afforestation efforts of previous years.*
