

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3317
TO BE ANSWERED ON 12.07.2019

Compensatory Afforestation Programme

3317. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH:

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware of irregularities in Compensatory Afforestation Programme;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether concerns have been raised by the environmentalists regarding dependence of monoculture plantations threatening the indigenous ecological diversity;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the action taken by the Government to address the said issues?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI BABUL SUPRIYO)

- (a)&(b) Sir, the Compensatory Afforestation works have been done by the State Forest Departments from the fund collected from the user agencies and deposited in the Compensatory Afforestation Fund (CAF). These funds are managed by the Compensatory Afforestation Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA). The funds under Compensatory Afforestation Fund (CAF) are utilised as per the activities mentioned in the Annual Plan of Operation (APO) approved by the Steering Committee chaired by the Chief Secretary of the concerned State of the State Compensatory Afforestation Management and Planning Authority.

As per the information provided by State Governments, compensatory afforestation has been done over 3, 52,806 ha from Compensatory Afforestation Fund till 2018. Concurrent monitoring and third party monitoring of the works undertaken from Compensatory Afforestation Fund have been done by the State Government and no such irregularities have been reported to the Ministry. However, one complaint has been received through the Prime Minister's Office vide letter No. PMOPG/D/2019/0187377 dated 12th June, 2019 for irregularities in afforestation works in Chhattisgarh. The Ministry has written to the State Compensatory Afforestation Management and Planning Authority to inquire into the matter and take appropriate corrective measures.

(c) – (e) The Compensatory Afforestation Fund Act, 2016 and the Compensatory Afforestation Fund Rules, 2018 have been notified, which came into effect on 30th September, 2018. The Compensatory Afforestation Fund Rule, 2018 was prepared in consultation with various stakeholders including environmentalists and concerns raised by the environmentalists regarding monoculture plantations has been addressed by including Explanation 1(c) of Rule 5 of the Compensatory Afforestation Fund Rules, which provides that afforestation and plantation of indigenous plant species shall be undertaken in consultation with the local communities dependent on forests. The compensatory afforestation is done as per the approved Annual Plan of Operation, in consonance with the working plan prescriptions of the forests in the States. State Governments have been advised to ensure that afforestation of indigenous species is done to maintain indigenous ecological diversity.
