

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1910
TO BE ANSWERED ON 19.12.2022

Promotion of Forestry

1910. SHRI PARVESH SAHIB SINGH VERMA:

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

- (a) whether the Government has thought of any policy to promote forestry on the fallow land, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (b) whether the Government has taken any steps to combat desertification through increasing the forest cover, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) whether the Government has taken any steps to conserve the mangroves from coastal erosion, if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)

- (a) The National Forest Policy (NFP) 1988 envisages the national goal to have a minimum of one- third of the total land area under forest or tree cover and two-third of the area under such cover in the hill and mountainous regions of the country. In consonance with NFP, 1988, the Ministry has been taking several initiatives for promoting forestry including fallow lands. The Ministry is implementing, the Centrally Sponsored Scheme, National Mission for a Green India (GIM) on landscape approach also covers fallow lands in which appropriate interventions as applicable are taken up by the concerned implementing agencies.
- (b) Government is implementing several schemes/programmes to combat desertification through increasing forest cover. Various afforestation related schemes implemented by Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEF&CC) and other ministries aim at increasing and improving forest and tree cover. MoEF&CC supports the States/Union Territories for carrying out various afforestation activities through Centrally Sponsored Scheme for conservation, development and promotion of forests under its major schemes namely, National Mission for a Green India (GIM) and Forest Fire Protection & Management Scheme (FFPM). Compensatory afforestation under CAMPA has also been used to increase forest cover across the country. State Governments also implement various schemes for restoration of degraded forest areas.

- (c) Mangroves are the first line of defence for coastal communities. They stabilize shorelines by slowing erosion and provide natural barriers protecting coastal communities from increased storm surge, flooding, and hurricanes. The Government of India has taken steps to protect sustain, conserve and augment forests in the country through promotional as well as regulatory measures. The promotional measures are being implemented through a Central Sector Scheme under National Coastal Mission Programme on 'Conservation and Management of Mangroves and Coral Reefs'. Under this programme, annual Management Action Plan (MAP) for conservation and management of mangroves are formulated and implemented in all the coastal States and Union Territories.

The Government under Centrally sponsored scheme for conservation & Management of Mangroves, extend assistance to Coastal State/UTs for implementation of action plans including survey and demarcation, alternation and supplementary livelihood, protection measures and education and awareness activities. The Ministry piloted an Integrated Coastal Zone management Project in Coastal stretches of three states namely Gujarat, Odisha and West Bengal, with objective of Conservation and Protection of Coastal resources which included plantation of mangroves as one of the major activities.
