

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3836
ANSWERED ON 23RD MARCH, 2023**

THE GREEN HIGHWAYS POLICY, 2015

3836. MS. DIYA KUMARI:

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

सड़क परिवहन और राजमार्ग मंत्री

be pleased to state:

(a) the objectives of the Green Highways Policy, 2015 which was introduced to promote greening of highway corridors with participation of the community, farmers, private sector, NGOs and Government institutions;

(b) whether the said objectives have been achieved so far;

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the objective of the policy to provide employment to the local people and communities has been fulfilled and if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether a monitoring mechanism has been set up to track the implementation of the policy and if so, the details thereof; and

(f) whether the State Governments have started a programme on similar lines and if so, the details thereof including the State of Rajasthan?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

(SHRI NITIN JAIRAM GADKARI)

(a) The objectives of the Green Highways (Plantation, Transplantation, Beautification & Maintenance) Policy, 2015 are as follows:

- (i) To evolve a policy framework for plantation along National Highways;**
- (ii) To reduce the impact of air pollution and dust as trees and shrubs are known to be natural sink for air pollutants;**
- (iii) To provide much needed shade on glaring hot roads during summer;**
- (iv) To reduce the impact of ever increasing noise pollution caused due to increase in number of vehicles;**
- (v) To arrest soil erosion at the embankment slopes;**
- (vi) To prevent glare from the headlight of incoming vehicles;**
- (vii) To moderate the effect of wind and incoming radiation;**
- (viii) To create employment opportunities for local people;**

(b) to (c) The implementation of the policy is a continuous process to achieve the said objectives. National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has planted more than 344 lakh plants on National Highways from year 2016-17 onward by way of Annual Plantation Action Plans. As per Annual Plantation Action Plan 2022-23, a target of 75.51 lakh plants was approved by NHAI out of which 69.63 lakh plants (92%) have been planted till February, 2023.

Year of Plantation	No. of Saplings Planted (in Lakh)
2016-2017	38.00
2017-2018	38.26
2018-2019	31.26
2019-2020	36.20
2020-2021	58.87
2021-2022	72.05
2022-2023 (upto 28.02.2023)	69.63
Total	344.27

(d) For the plantation activities, local people are engaged to provide them employment. However, as most of the plantations on National Highways are done by the concessionaires, the data regarding employment provided for plantation activities is not separately maintained.

(e) & (f) To monitor the survival and growth of plants, NHAI launched a Mobile App “Harit Path” in August 2020 and 237 lakhs plants have been

geo-tagged upto February, 2023. As a second line of monitoring, the plantations are being monitored through monthly drone videography of highways construction development progress including plantations. In addition, there are regular inspections by NHAI officers and professionals engaged in Regional Offices.
