

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1744
TO BE ANSWERED ON 31.07.2023

Plantation of Trees on Vacant Land

1744. DR. BHARATIBEN DHIRUBHAI SHIYAL:
DR. (PROF.) KIRIT PREMJBHAI SOLANKI:

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

- (a) whether the guideline under National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) to plant trees on the plots that have been left vacant for more than two years is being followed;
- (b) whether any guidelines were issued to identify such vacant plots and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has details of such plantation drives; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

- (a)&(b) National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) guidelines provide a list of actions to be undertaken for improvement of air quality in cities. Greening and landscaping of all the major arterial roads and national highways after identification of major polluting stretches is one of the activities to mitigate reduce pollution from road dust and Construction and Demolition (C&D) waste.

City Action Plan prepared and implemented by targeted NCAP cities contains various air quality improvement measures *inter-alia* cover greening of open spaces and streets in cities, greening and landscaping of all the major arterial roads after identification of major polluting stretches. Further, cities have been requested to identify lands that have been reclaimed under remediation of legacy waste dumps for developing a plantation. All 131 targeted cities have incorporated creation of greening of open spaces as part of City Action Plans.

Further, the scheme, Nagar Van Yojana (NVY) has been launched by the Ministry during the year 2020, for creation of Nagar Vans in urban areas, which promotes urban forestry by involving local communities, NGOs, educational institutions, local bodies, etc. The projects approved under the scheme also include the projects in targeted cities under NCAP.

- (c)&(d) The Ministry, promotes plantation as a people's movement through various programmes which encourages planting trees on degraded forest land in urban area, on vacant land and on bunds of farm land etc.

The Ministry on various occasions like International Day of Forests, World Environment Day, Van Mahotsav, Wild life Week, International Day for Biological Diversity etc. disseminates knowledge in planting trees and other floral species which are naturally grown in a particular region through various Conferences, Workshops, Mass Plantation etc.

The Ministry has also issued advisories time to time to achieve the annual tree plantation targets with coordinated efforts by various agencies and advised all State and UT Governments to step up tree planting drive by creating a mass peoples' movement and take up plantations on all vacant lands including available spaces in Urban/Peri-Urban areas, village common land, roadside/riverside, along railway lines, institutional land and unutilized Government lands, etc.

Tree plantation activities including urban forestry, being a multi-departmental, multi-agency activity, are taken up cross-sectorally under various programmes/funding sources of other ministries/ organizations and also through State Plan budgets. States and UT Governments also carry out various afforestation drives to achieve their afforestation targets.
