

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2821
TO BE ANSWERED ON 07.08.2023

International Day of Forests, 2023

2821. SHRI K. NAVASKANI:

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken note that forests and health is the theme of the International Day of Forests, 2023; and
- (b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to create awareness among the public about the ecosystem services provided by forests like purification of water and air, carbon capture to fight climate change and supply of life-saving medicines?

ANSWER

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

- (a)&(b) The Ministry has observed the International Day of Forest, 2023 on the theme “Healthy Forest and Healthy People”. On the occasion of the International Day of Forests 2023, the Ministry launched the Aravalli Green Wall programme, an initiative for restoring about 1.50 million hectares of lands in the Aravalli hill ranges in north western India for reducing desertification and to create a barrier from sand and dust being blown into agriculture and urban landscapes. The Ministry also launched a massive plantation drive for restoration of Yamuna floodplains to reduce run-off and soil erosion along the river banks.

India participated in a high-level session organised by Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) on the occasion of International Day of Forest 2023, whereby, India highlighted the positive impacts of forests on mental and physical health, need for integrating forests into urban landscapes & planning and the importance of non-timber forest produce as source of forest-based livelihood. Further, India also highlighted the role played by the forest ecosystem in Ayurveda and other traditional medicinal systems.

The Ministry under various Centrally sponsored schemes including the Green India Mission and development of wildlife habitats have been undertaking awareness generation among public on the role of forests and the ecosystem services.

The Ministry released a booklet on agroforestry to guide farmers and tree growers on best practices regarding tree farming.
