

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 571
TO BE ANSWERED ON 24.07.2023

Urban Forests

571. SHRIMATI SARMISTHA SETHI:
SHRI HEMANT TUKARAM GODSE:
SHRIMATI DELKAR KALABEN MOHANBHAI:
SHRI GAJANAN KIRTIKAR:
SHRI SANTOSH PANDEY:

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

- (a) the details of initiative taken by the Government to create urban forests in the country during the last five years;
- (b) the total number and acres of urban forests in the country since 2014 still as on date;
- (c) the salient features of the Nagar Van scheme launched by the Government to increase greenery in urban areas and the details of present status of said scheme in Maharashtra, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Daman and Diu and Chhattisgarh;
- (d) the total urban area covered under the said scheme, State/Union Territory-wise, including various cities of Maharashtra, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Daman and Diu and Chhattisgarh; and
- (e) the total amount allocated during the last two years and the current year by the Government to the State Governments of Maharashtra, Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Daman & Diu and Chhattisgarh under the said scheme?

ANSWER

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

- (a) The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has taken various initiatives through programmes and schemes that encourages tree plantation including urban areas in the country. The scheme, Nagar Van Yojana (NVY) has been launched 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.
Besides, the National Mission for a Green India (GIM), under which, in addition to other sub-missions, there is a specific sub-mission for enhancing tree cover in urban and peri-urban areas. Urban forestry is also a permissible activity under the provisions of Compensatory Fund Act, 2016 and the Rules made thereunder. Forestry/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.

(b)to(d) The tree outside forest (ToF) refers to all trees growing outside recorded forest areas. The patches of 1 ha and above outside the recorded forest area and Tree Cover, both constitute the ToF. As per India State of Forest Report (ISFR), 2015 published by Forest Survey of India (FSI), MoEFCC the Tree Cover is 92,572 sq. km. As per India State of Forest Report (ISFR), 2021 the Tree Cover is 95,748 sq. km. The Forest Survey of India in ISFR, 2021 have done mapping for Forest Cover in Major Mega Cities *i.e.* Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Chennai, Delhi, Hyderabad, Kolkata and Mumbai. The total forest cover reported in these seven major mega cities is 509.72 sq. km.

Nagar Van Yojana envisages creating a Nagar Van / Nagar Vatika in each City having Municipal Corporation/Municipal council/Municipality/Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) for providing wholesome healthy living environment for the residents and thus contributing to growth of clean, green, healthy and sustainable cities. The salient features of Nagar Van Yojana are:

- (i) Creating green space and aesthetic environment in an urban set up.
- (ii) Creating awareness about plants and biodiversity and developing environment stewardship.
- (iii) Facilitating in-situ conservation of important flora of the region.
- (iv) Contributing to environmental improvement of cities by pollution mitigation, providing cleaner air, noise reduction, water harvesting and reduction of heat islands effect.
- (v) Extending health benefits to residents of the city and
- (vi) Helping cities become climate resilient.

Under NVY, so far, 385 projects have been sanctioned in the country, since inception of the scheme in 2020. The state-wise details of number of projects approved and area sanctioned including Maharashtra and Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Daman-Diu and Chhattisgarh has been given in Annexure.

(e) The details of funds released towards sanctioned projects in Maharashtra and Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Daman-Diu and Chhattisgarh during the last two years and current is as under:

(Rs. In Lakhs)

Sl. No.	State/UT	Fund Released in 2021-22	Fund Released in 2022-23	Fund Released in 2023-24
1	Chhattisgarh	830.77	0	0
2	Maharashtra	156.86	193.87	0
3	Dadra and Nagar Haveli, and Daman and Diu*	<i>No proposal has been received under Nagar Van Yojana</i>		

Annexure

Annexure referred to in reply to part (b) to (d) of the Lok Sabha Un-Starred Question No. 571 due for reply on 24.07.2023 by Shrimati Sarmistha Sethi, Shri Hemant Tukaram Godse, Shrimati Delkar Kalaben Mohanbhai, Shri Gajanan Kirtikar, Shri Santosh Pandey regarding 'Urban Forests'.

State-wise, details of number of projects and total area sanctioned under Nagar Van Yojana (2020-21 to 2023-24)

Sl.No.	State/UT	Number of projects approved	Total Area approved (ha)
1	Andaman & Nicobar	1	21.15
2	Andhra Pradesh	13	502.95
3	Arunachal Pradesh	1	20
4	Assam	3	59
5	Bihar	6	113.02
6	Chandigarh	1	6.79
7	Chhattisgarh	7	294.63
8	Goa	1	50
9	Gujarat	10	178.5
10	Haryana	5	168.54
11	Himachal Pradesh	6	172.07
12	Jammu & Kashmir	17	218.6
13	Jharkhand	33	771.67
14	Karnataka	7	239.71
15	Kerala	25	379.31
16	Madhya Pradesh	27	942.14
17	Maharashtra	9	184.14
18	Manipur	1	50
19	Meghalaya	2	86.7
20	Mizoram	16	730.8
21	Nagaland	11	188.3
22	Odisha	40	720.2875
23	Punjab	16	186.9
24	Rajasthan	14	485.9
25	Sikkim	5	139.63
26	Tamil Nadu	10	435
27	Telangana	47	472.19
28	Tripura	4	124.5
29	Uttar Pradesh	26	722
30	Uttarakhand	6	129.27
31	West Bengal	15	117.483
32	Dadra and Nagar Haveli, and Daman and Diu*	0	0
	Total	385	8911.1805

Note: *No proposal has been received under Nagar Van Yojana.
