

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 269
ANSWERED ON 05.02.2024

Schemes for Restoration of Mangrove Forests

269. SHRI VINOD L. CHAVDA:

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

- (a) whether the mangrove forests have 10 times more capacity to absorb carbon per hectare in comparison with terrestrial forests and have 400 per cent faster rate of absorbing carbon in comparison with tropical rain forests situated on the regions of land;
- (b) whether the mangrove forests provide proliferation base for ocean bio-diversity and 80 per cent of global fish species are dependent on these mangrove forests;
- (c) if so, whether the Government has prepared or implemented any scheme or time-bound mission to restore the degraded mangroves and to increase the area under mangrove forests situated at Indian coastline; 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) to (d) Mangrove forests have more capacity to store carbon, provide breeding grounds for marine biodiversity and support global fish populations. The Government has taken a number of steps to protect and enhance mangrove forests in coastal States/Union Territories through promotional as well as regulatory measures. The promotional measures are being implemented through a Central Sector Scheme namely 'Conservation and Management of Mangroves and Coral Reefs' under National Coastal Mission Programme of the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change.

Regulatory measures are implemented through Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) Notification (2019) under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986; the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972; the Indian Forest Act, 1927; the Biological Diversity Act, 2002; and rules under these acts as amended from time to time.

Union Budget 2023-24 announced 'Mangrove Initiative for Shoreline Habitats & Tangible Incomes (MISHTI)' to promote and conserve mangroves as unique, natural eco-system having very high biological productivity and carbon sequestration potential, besides working as a bio shield. Accordingly, MISHTI was launched by Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change on the occasion of World Environment Day i.e., 5th June 2023. Further, Operational Guidelines for implementation of MISHTI activities have been prepared and circulated to the States for preparation of plans. MISHTI envisages restoration/reforestation of Mangroves covering approximately 540 km², spreading across 9

States and 3 Union Territories for a period of five years commencing 2023-24 onwards. The States have also been encouraged to take activities under MISHTI through convergence with the existing schemes/programs. Overall, the mangrove cover of the country witnessed an increase of 252 km² between 2015 to 2021.
