

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2660
TO BE ANSWERED ON 06.03.2020

Soil Erosion at River Banks

2660. SHRI AJAY KUMAR MISRA TENI:

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

- (a) whether the Government is contemplating any scheme to encourage people in the country for afforestation to stop soil erosion at river banks due to incessant floods every year;
- (b) if so, the measures taken to tackle soil erosion during the last three years and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the approximate area of such lands earmarked and targets envisaged to prevent soil erosion during the next financial year?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI BABUL SUPRIYO)

- (a) to (c): As per information received from Ministry of Jal Shakti, National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) under the Namami Gange Programme is implementing “Forestry Interventions in Ganga” project as per the Detailed project report (DPR) prepared by Forest Research Institute (FRI), Dehradun. The DPR has projected site-specific plantation along the banks of river Ganga and its tributaries in the five States namely Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal in over 1.34 lakh hectares of area. The DPR provides 43 numbers of plantation models in four major heads viz. Natural landscape, Agricultural landscape, Urban landscape and Conservation intervention which includes soil and water conservation. During the financial year 2016 to 2020, plantation over 26,764 ha. Land has been carried out under Namami Gange scheme by the five Ganga bank state forest departments, for which NMCG has funded Rs. 337.22 crore.

In addition, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change has assigned a technical study to ICFRE to assess the need of interventions and measures to reduce soil erosion, improve quality of forests, enhance soil moisture regime to augment continuous supply of water to the streams, etc. along the river landscape of 13 major Indian rivers and prepare a Detailed Project Report (DPR) for forestry mediation for rejuvenation of the river basins. The study includes Beas, Chenab, Jhelum, Ravi, Sutlej, Loni, Brahmaputra, Yamuna, Mahanadi, Narmada, Krishna, Godavari and Cauvery rivers.
