

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 4459**  
**TO BE ANSWERED ON 20.03.2020**

**Cutting of Forest**

4459. SHRI ANIL FIROJIYA:

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

- (a) whether the rate of cutting/clearing forests increased during the last year;
- (b) if so, the steps taken to check the cutting/ clearing of the forests;
- (c) the present status of Compensatory Afforestation Project;
- (d) whether any scheme to promote social programmes to encourage planting of trees among the school going children of the private and public schools has been undertaken by the Government; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

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

- (a) to (c) The Government Policy is to ensure more trees are planted than removed under different developmental proposals approved under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. Trees are removed only when it is absolutely necessary. The results of such efforts have also been reflected in the increase of forest cover. As per the India State of Forest Report(ISFR) 2019, the forest and tree cover has increased by 5188 square kilometre as compared to that of ISFR 2017 assessment.

In 2018-2019, 26,91,028 number of trees were marked for removal and plantation of more than 4,00,00,000 trees have been stipulated under Compensatory Afforestation.

The Compensatory Afforestation Fund (CAF) Act was enacted in 2016, which came into force w.e.f. 30.09.2018. Compensatory Afforestation Fund (CAF) Rules, 2018 were notified on 10.08.2018. The CAF Act, 2016 paved the way for establishment of National CAMPA i.e. National Authority in place of ad-hoc CAMPA and State Authorities. During 2019-20, APOs of 20 States have been approved by the National Authority with a total outlay of Rs 5,224.86 crores. This includes an amount of Rs 1,261.10Crore for site specific activities and Rs. 3,963.76Crore for non-site-specific activities.

(d)& (e) The Ministry launched a School Nursery Yojanain 2015 for involvement of school students in raising nurseries to bring them closer to natural environment, help them understand the natural processes of germination and feel the joy of watching saplings grow. Financial assistance of Rs. 153.80 Lakh was provided to 505 school nurseries in 13 States.

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