

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 1130
TO BE ANSWERED ON 18.09.2020

Conservation of Forests

1130. SHRI MALOOK NAGAR:

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

- (a) the steps so far taken by the Government for the conservation of forests and natural resources on the river banks and to check their misuse across the country especially in Uttar Pradesh;
- (b) whether there is any scheme of the Government for the conservation of forest area on the bank of river Ganga so as to benefit the local people; and
- (c) 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 BABUL SUPRIYO)

- (a) The National Forest Policy (NFP), 1988, encourages planting of trees on different types of lands including lands alongside rivers, and streams and canals. To increase and improve the forest and tree cover in the country, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) has taken several initiatives. These include Centrally Sponsored Schemes, such as National Afforestation Programme, National Mission for Green India and Development of Wildlife Habitats. Compensatory Afforestation Fund Rules, 2018 also contain provisions for taking up assisted natural regeneration, artificial regeneration and silvicultural operations, which contribute conservation of forest and natural resources on the river banks. Afforestation and tree planting activities, including those on river banks, are also taken up under various programme/funding sources of other Ministries of Government of India such as, Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana and under the schemes/plans of States and Union Territories and also by corporate bodies, public institutions, civil society/NGOs public sector undertakings, etc.

(b) & (c) The Ministry of Jal Shakti under the National Mission of Clean Ganga (NMCG) is implementing the Namami Gange Programme that includes Forestry Interventions along the banks of river Ganga and its tributaries in five states, namely Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal. Plantation of 26,764 ha has been undertaken between the period 2016 and 2020 so far under the programme and NMCG has provided ₹337.22 crore for the same.
