

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO: 997
TO BE ANSWERED ON 18.09.2020

Government Nominations to NCCF

997. SHRIMATI MALA RAJYA LAXMI SHAH:

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

- (a) whether the Government has nominated one of its nominees from Environment, Agriculture and Commerce Ministries in the governing board of Network for Certification and Conservation of Forests (NCCF), if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Ministry has included the officials connected with NCCF/GICIA in any of its committees and other bodies, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Ministry has written to the States recommending to engage NCCF for certification of the Government forests;
- (d) the quantum of funds that have been granted/sanctioned by the Central or other States CAMPA including Uttarakhand CAMPA for certification related matters to NCCF and its sister organization GICIA; and
- (e) whether the Government has taken a decision to proceed with certification of Government forests even as India is a net importer of timber, if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

- (a) The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change had nominated the Deputy Inspector General of Forests, Survey and Utilization Division in the Governing Body of Network for Certification and Conservation of Forests (NCCF) on 01 August, 2018. As per information received from the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Joint Secretary of RFS/NRM Division of the Department of Agriculture Cooperation & Farmers' Welfare has been nominated on 23 June, 2015. As per information received from the Ministry of Commerce & Industries, considering SPS/TBT issues involved, the concerned Deputy Secretary dealing with SPS and TBT matters was nominated in the year 2017 to attend meetings of NCCF. However, no official from Trade Policy Division, Department of Commerce, has been nominated to the Governing Board of NCCF.

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has withdrawn its representative from the Governing Body of NCCF on 04 August, 2020.

- (b) At present no official from the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change is connected with NCCF/GICIA.
- (c) The Ministry has written to States/UTs for initiating forest certification in some forest divisions on a voluntary basis to promote sustainable forest management indicating that NCCF has developed India specific standards and has offered their assistance in forest certification in India.
- (d) No fund from Central CAMPA or Uttarakhand State CAMPA has been granted/sanctioned for certification related matters to NCCF or GICIA.
- (e) The Government has not taken any decision to proceed with certification of Government forests. However, forest certification and development of certification standards, *inter alia*, is one of the eligible activities under the Compensatory Afforestation Fund Rules, 2018.
