

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 2069
TO BE ANSWERED ON 30.07.2021

Conversion of Reserve Forests into Urban Parks

2069. SHRI ANUMULA REVANTH REDDY:

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

- (a) whether the State Government of Telangana proposes to convert Khazipally reserve forest near Hyderabad into urban forest park for beautification and development and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the State Government plans to convert other reserve forests into urban forest parks and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the State Government has invited celebrities and other industrialists to adopt the reserve forest areas and if so, details thereof;
- (d) whether any celebrity or industrialist has adopted any reserve forest, if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) whether environmental clearance has been sought from his Ministry in this regard, if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)

- (a) to (d) As per report received from Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF), Telangana, the Forest Block has been identified for development as Urban Forest Park on the similar line of Nagar Van Yojana of Government of India.

The main objective of these Urban Forests Parks is to protect the valuable forest land in and around cities and towns and conserve the local biodiversity in situ through complete protection measures and taking up all the developmental activities required to develop the existing forests inside these urban forests blocks.

These Urban Forests Parks provide the required lung spaces to the citizens and also play a vital role in the development of healthy, clean and smart cities. They play a vital role in the awareness building for Forest Ecosystems and contribute a lot in imparting the environmental education to local children under Vana Darshini Programme.

In most of the Urban Forest Parks, approximately 5% area is opened to visitors and rest of the area is earmarked as conservation zone which is fully protected and preserved.

Also, other Forest Blocks in and around cities and towns are being developed as Urban Forest Parks on the similar line of Nagar Van Yojna of Government of India.

Regarding inviting celebrities and industrialists to adopt the reserve forest areas, no such orders have been issued by the State Government so far. However, people are coming forward voluntarily to contribute to the development of forests and local biodiversity under Telanganku Haritha Haram programme for development of urban forest blocks. The developmental and conservation activities are taken up by the Forest Department only as per approved Action Plans.

- (e) Establishment of Nagar Van does not require Environmental Clearance.
