

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3649**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 20.12.2021

**R&D Schemes for Conservation**

3649. SHRI SANJAY KAKA PATIL:

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

- (a) Whether there has been under utilization of the funds allocated to Research & Development (R&D) Scheme for conservation and Development for the last three years;
- (b) Whether the Government has undertaken assessment on the reasons for the same and if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps undertaken by the Government to improve the usage of funds?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE**

**(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)**

- (a) During the FY 2018-19, funds were underutilized in the Research & Development (R&D) Scheme for Conservation and Development.
- (b) & (c) The reasons for under utilization of funds interalia include the following: -

The Standing Finance Committee had approved the scheme in the last quarter of 2017. The web-portal to receive the applications online became operational in August, 2018 and the appraisal of these projects started only in the first quarter of 2019 with the constitution of the Technical and Financial Appraisal Committee (TFAC) and Steering Committee (SC). A total of 19 TFAC meetings and 10 Steering committee meetings have been held in 2019-22 (as on 15.12.2021) & a total of 18 new projects have been approved. For release of subsequent instalments, reminders have been issued and follow up carried out.

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