

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**LOKSABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.5197**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 04.04.2022

**Urban Afforestation Schemes**

5197. SHRI M.K. RAGHAVAN:

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

- (a) whether the Government has any schemes for urban afforestation in the country and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government has any data regarding the rise of heat wave as a result of climate change in the country and if so, the details regarding the same since 2019;
- (c) whether the Government has any policy to tackle rising heat waves in the country and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government has any schemes for promotion of urban vertical gardens and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) whether the Government has any data regarding the forest lost in Kerala since 2018 and if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

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

- (a) The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change implements a Pilot Scheme of Nagar Van Yojana (NVY) which envisages developing 400 Nagar Vans and 200 Nagar Vatikasin the country during the period of 2020-21 to 2024-25 with an objective to significantly enhance the tree outside forests and green cover, enhancement of biodiversity and ecological benefits to the urban and peri-urban areas apart from improving quality of life of city dwellers with the funds under the National Fund of the Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA). So far, a total of 65 projects have been sanctioned in 22 States. The Ministry encourages plantation in the country through schemes such as School Nursery Yojana, Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA), National Afforestation Programme (NAP), National Mission for a Green India (GIM), etc. which promotes urban forestry, tree plantation on vacant lands and bunds on farm lands etc. by involving local communities, NGOs, educational institutions, local bodies, etc.
- (b)&(c) As per the information from Ministry of Earth Sciences, heat wave is one of the severe weather phenomena for which India Meteorological Department (IMD) issues early warning. In the country, appreciable rise in maximum temperatures as well as heat waves are found to be more in the months of April, May & June. As an initiative, IMD is issuing Seasonal Outlook for temperatures for the months of April, May & June in the last week of March for planning purpose. This outlook brings out the expected scenario of heat waves also during the period.

As an adaptive measure, IMD in collaboration with local health departments have started heat action plan in many parts of the country to forewarn about the heat waves and also advising action to be taken during such occasions, became operational since 2013 and the Plan presents immediate as well as longer-term actions to increase preparedness, information-sharing , and response coordination to reduce the health impacts of extreme heat on vulnerable populations. The Heat Action Plan is a comprehensive early warning system and preparedness plan for extreme heat events. National Disaster Management Authority ( NDMA ) and IMD are working with 23 states prone to high temperatures leading to heat-wave conditions to develop heat action plans. IMD has started Forecast Demonstration Project ( FDP) on heat waves for the hot weather season under which a detailed daily report including realized data of heat waves, weather systems leading to the occurrence of heat waves, diagnosis on the basis of Numerical Model outputs and forecast and warnings for five days is prepared. This bulletin is disseminated to all concerned including health departments.

- (d) At present, Government has no schemes for promotion of urban vertical gardens.
- (e) Forest Survey of India (FSI), Dehradun, an organization under the Ministry carries out the assessment of forest cover of the country biennially and the findings are published in India State of Forest Report (ISFR).As per the latest ISFR-2021, the Forest Cover of the State of Kerala is 21,253 sq km. The Forest Cover of the State has increased by 109 sq km (0.52%) as compared to the previous assessment published in ISFR 2019.

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