

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1138
TO BE ANSWERED ON 29.07.2024

Conservation of Aravali Range

1138. SHRI UMMEDA RAM BENIWAL:

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to take concrete steps for conservation of Aravali Range, known as the lifeline of Delhi-NCR;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any guidelines have been issued by the National Green Tribunal (NGT) in this regard; and
- (d) if so, the details of the Compliance Reports forwarded by the concerned States to the NGT?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH)

(a) & (b) The Ministry announced the Aravalli Green Wall project to restore the Aravallis landscape through various initiatives like afforestation with native tree species, water conservation measures, natural resources protection, single-use plastic ban etc, to green the 5km buffer area around the Aravalli Hill Range in Haryana, Gujarat, Rajasthan and Part of Delhi NCR. The overall objectives of the initiative is to improve the ecological health of the Aravalli range and to prevent eastward expansion of Thar Desert and to reduce land degradation by creating green barriers that will prevent soil erosion, desertification and dust storms. This initiative will also lead to carbon sequestration, help mitigate climate change, promote the sustainable development and enhance livelihood opportunities by involving local communities in afforestation, agro-forestry and water conservation activities that will ultimately generate income, employment, food security and social benefits. The Detailed Project Report (DPR) for taking up restoration activities in Aravalli range in consultation with the State Forest Department, civil society groups, local communities and relevant private sector has been prepared. This initiative is complemented by the regular afforestation programme of State Govt. and Compensatory Afforestation against forest land diversion for the non-forest purposes.

(c) and (d) The National Green Tribunal while taking up matters related to Aravallis has issued various guidelines for protection and conservation of Aravallis. Such directions and guidelines are implemented by concerned Governments, Union Territory Administrations, Institutions and Organisations.
