

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2198
TO BE ANSWERED ON 05.08.2024

Afforestation in Ganga Basin States

2198. SHRI UJJWAL RAMAN SINGH

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the fact that afforestation is a very important task for conservation of river Ganga;
- (b) whether it is a fact that Government has got a DPR prepared by Forest Research Institute (FRI) Dehradun for afforestation in Ganga basin States of Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Jharkhand; and
- (c) if so, the number of hectares of land for which DPRs have been prepared in these States and their estimated cost?

ANSWER

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

- (a) Forests are important for conservation of rivers, including the Ganga. The tree canopy acts as a natural sponge, absorbing rainwater, allowing it to percolate into the ground, recharging aquifers.. The forest cover also reduces soil erosion and river siltation as roots of trees bind the soil, preventing it from being washed away into the river.
- (b) The ICFRE-Forest Research Institute, Dehradun, has prepared Detailed Project Report (DPR) on forestry interventions for river Ganga, for the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, with the objective of afforestation on forest land, agricultural land and urban landscapes in five states viz. Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal.
- (c) The details of area in hectares (Ha) and the estimated cost (in Rupees) are placed at Annexure.

Annexure

Annexure referred to in reply to part (c) of Lok Sabha Un-starred Question No 2198 due for reply on 05.08.2024. By Shri Ujjwal Raman Singh regarding Afforestation in Ganga Basin States

S. No.	State	Natural landscape		Agricultural landscape		Urban landscape	
		Area (ha)	Cost (Rs. in crore)	Area (ha)	Cost (Rs. in crore)	Area (ha)	Cost (Rs. in crore)
1.	Uttarakhand	27,303	540.82	15,180	53.13	1,406	134.24
2.	Uttar Pradesh	3,182	90.13	5,354	18.72	1,660	65.12
3.	Bihar	4,717	207.56	20,852	72.98	98	12.06
4.	Jharkhand	816	40.20	200	0.70	151	9.88
5.	West Bengal	19,382	201.49	4,200	14.17	3,250	127.61
	Total	55,400	1,080.20	45,786	159.70	6,565	348.91