

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO: 57**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 22.07.2024

**Reduction of Green Cover in the Cauvery Basin**

57. DR. SHASHI THAROOR:

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken cognizance of the notice served by the National Green Tribunal (NGT) about the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) report highlighting the massive reduction of green cover in the Cauvery basin over the past five decades;
- (b) if so, the steps taken by the Government on the concerning environmental trends highlighted in the report;
- (c) whether the Government has carried out a comprehensive risk-assessment of policy alternatives to reduce the environmental abuse in the Cauvery basin;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) whether the Government has served notice to the State Government of Kerala seeking action on the NGT directives, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) to (d) The Ministry has received the notice in the matter of OA No. 787/2023 served by the National Green Tribunal (NGT), Principal Bench, New Delhi referring the report published in a news paper and the matter is sub judice.

(e) The NGT has impleaded the Government of Kerala in aforesaid matter.

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