

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1132
TO BE ANSWERED ON 10.02.2025

Conservation of Forests

1132 SMT. GENIBEN NAGAJI THAKOR:
SHRI ZIA UR REHMAN:
DR. RAJKUMAR SANGWAN:

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

- (a) whether the forest cover is decreasing continuously in the country, if so, the reasons therefor;
- (b) the steps being taken by the Government for the conservation of forests and increase forest cover in the country;
- (c) whether the incidences of tree felling are increasing day by day;
- (d) if so, the preventive measures taken by the Government to prevent illegal felling of trees and hunting in forest areas, if not, the reasons therefor;
- (e) whether the Government proposes to introduce any new national scheme for the conservation of forests; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

- (a)to(f) Forest Survey of India (FSI), Dehradun, an organization under the Ministry, carries out the assessment of forest and tree cover of the country biennially and the findings are published in the India State of Forest Report (ISFR). There is an increasing trend of forest cover in the country since last decade. As per ISFR 2023, there is a net increase of the forest cover to the extent of 16,630 square kilometers between 2013 and 2023 assessment.

The protection and management of forest and tree resources is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. There are legal frameworks for the protection and management of forest and tree resources of the country which include, the Indian Forest Act 1927, Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam 1980, Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972 and the State Forest Acts, Tree Preservation Acts and Rules, etc.

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change issues advisories to the State Governments/UT Administrations to protect forests and prevent illegal felling of trees and hunting in forest areas as per the provisions of the

law. In this regard, various measures taken by the State Forest Departments include survey and demarcation of forest areas, fixing of pillars along forest boundary and regular patrolling by field staff.

In addition, the Ministry provides technical and financial support to the States /UTs for protection, conservation and management of forests in the country. For afforestation, the Government has provided funds under various schemes and programmes such as National Mission for a Green India (GIM), Development of Wildlife Habitats (DWH), and Nagar Van Yojana (NVY). These schemes supports the efforts of the States and UTs for ecological restoration through afforestation in and outside forest areas, forest landscape restoration, habitat improvement, soil and water conservation measures, and protection etc. Afforestation is also carried out by the States/ UTs under the Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA).

A campaign एक_पेड़_माँ_के_नाम #Plant4Mother has been launched on the occasion of World Environment Day 2024 to undertake plantation activities across the country following the “Whole of Government” and “Whole of Society” approach with participation of all stakeholders for increasing the green cover. As per information made available on Meri Life Portal by all the stakeholders, planting of 109 Crore seedlings have been reported till end of January, 2025.
