

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2657
TO BE ANSWERED ON 17.03.2025

Inaccuracies in ISFR, 2023

2657. SHRI SUDAMA PRASAD:
SHRI SAPTAGIRI SANKAR ULAKA:
SHRI KULDEEP INDORA:

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken cognizance of the Report published in the The Wire.in dated 4/02/25 stating the Green Credit Programme (GCP) as a flawed Scheme which allows businesses to earn green credits for dubious plantation, later used for diverting forests, if so, the action taken by the Government against the same, if not, the reasons therefor;
- (b) the details of the plantations funded under the GCP since its inception;
- (c) the details of appropriate regulations are in place to prevent false greenwashing by big business under GCP including measures taken against the same;
- (d) whether as per the Report, increase in tree cover majorly constituted plantations including coconut, oil palm and rubber, if so, the measures taken against the same by the Government;
- (e) whether any Committee was constituted before the implementation of GCP, if so, the details of the Reports, submitted by the said Committee;
- (f) the measures being taken to address deforestation, considering reports that 1.49 million hectares of forests were lost in the last decade;
- (g) whether the ISFR methodology is aligned with Supreme Court directives on forest conservation and the steps taken to digitize and legally protect forest areas; and
- (h) whether the Government plans to revise ISFR assessment methods to ensure scientific accuracy, transparency and reliable ground-truthing, if so, the measures taken to ensure the correct assessment of our forests from time to time?

ANSWER

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

- (a) to (h). The Central Government has notified Green Credit Rules, 2023 on 12th October 2023 under the Environment Protection Act, 1986 to encourage voluntary environmental positive actions resulting in issuance of Green Credits and has also developed a Green

Credit Programme (GCP) Portal (<https://moefcc-gcp.in/>) for the purpose.

Currently, the activity of tree plantation for eco-restoration of degraded forest lands is being implemented under the Green Credit Programme (GCP). State-wise status of registered land parcels in the country as on 04.03.2025, is enclosed as Annexure - I. Since inception, 3610.47 ha of degraded forest land on 172 land parcels in different states has been selected for eco-restoration by Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs) and funding for eco-restoration and maintenance up to 10 years has been received from these entities (Annexure - II).

The Ministry has undertaken deliberations with Central Ministries/Departments, experts, industry, research and academia and other stakeholders for the Green Credit Programme. Technical Committee was constituted to develop methodologies and monitoring, reporting and verification mechanism for green credits in tree plantation based activity. Detailed modalities for taking up tree plantation under Green Credit Programme have been brought out by the Ministry in February 2024 (Annexure - III). Transparency and accountability of GCP is enabled through methodologies, guidelines and digital processes.

Methodology used in ISFRs (India State of Forest Report) is based on satellite image interpretation for assessing the forest cover of the country. Over the years, several technological advances have been adopted by FSI which have significantly improved the forest cover mapping carried out by FSI. The advancements include use of better satellite data, higher scales of mapping and improvement in methods of interpretation. While assessing the forest cover, FSI considers both Recorded Forest Areas (RFAs) and areas outside recorded forests and uses digitized boundaries of RFAs provided by State Forest Departments (SFDs) and Union Territories (UTs) for its assessments and monitoring activities. For ISFR 2023, FSI has received Recorded Forest Area boundaries in digital format from 25 State Forest Departments (SFDs)/UTs. The details of the areas enclosed in the RFA boundaries provided by SFDs are given in Annexure - IV, as per ISFR 2023. Database provided by State Forest Departments has been incorporated in the Web-GIS based Decision Support System (DSS) portal made by FSI for clearance of projects under Forest Conservation Act (1980).

For keeping a track on the country's forest resources FSI publishes a biennial report on forests, "India State of Forest Report". The first report of 1987 used LANDSAT-MSS satellite data with a spatial resolution of 80 m at 1:1 million scale whereas the latest report i.e. ISFR 2023 is based on Resourcesat-2 LISS III satellite image, with a spatial resolution of 23.5 m and scale of 1:50,000. FSI has always kept pace with technological advancements and improved its assessment over the years. To ensure scientific accuracy, transparency, reliable ground truthing and correct assessment of forest cover, FSI increased its ground truthing points from 3,414 in ISFR 2021 to 8,494 in ISFR 2023.

Annexure I

Status of Progress of Implementation of the Green Credit Programme as on 04.03.2025

S. No.	State	Total registered land parcels/blocks on GCP portal by Forest Departments (No.)	Total registered land parcels/blocks on GCP portal by Forest Departments (Area ha)
1	ANDHRA PRADESH	778	12130.98
2	ASSAM	10	454
3	BIHAR	57	4108.71
4	CHHATTISGARH	94	1954.92
5	GOA	2	10
6	GUJARAT	159	3122.48
7	HARYANA	14	128
8	JHARKHAND	351	5671.89
9	KARNATAKA	38	1027.6
10	MADHYA PRADESH	310	15020.65
11	MAHARASHTRA	107	1572.55
12	ODISHA	105	1029.63
13	RAJASTHAN	17	908
14	TAMIL NADU	167	4708.04
15	TELANGANA	77	1738.02
16	UTTAR PRADESH	67	883.96
17	UTTARAKHAND	11	200.03
	Total	2364	54669.46

ANNEXURE – II

The details of the plantations funded under the GCP since its inception:

S.N O	Re g- No	Entity Name	State	Division	Final Area	Total Amount Received
1	24 1	COAL INDIA LIMITED	ASSAM	Goalpara	99	5,21,92,257. 70
2	21 7	OIL INDIA LIMITED	ASSAM	WEstern Assam Wildlife	50	2,96,35,846. 90
3	21 5	OIL INDIA LIMITED	ASSAM	WEstern Assam Wildlife	35	2,04,29,252. 80
4	21 9	OIL INDIA LIMITED	ASSAM	Kamrup West	5	48,73,371.80
5	22 0	OIL INDIA LIMITED	ASSAM	Kamrup West	34	2,35,32,958. 90
6	22 1	OIL INDIA LIMITED	ASSAM	Kamrup West	16	1,10,35,391. 40
7	23 7	OIL INDIA LIMITED	ASSAM	Goalpara	80	4,25,82,332. 10
8	24 0	OIL INDIA LIMITED	ASSAM	Goalpara	84	5,04,83,736. 60
9	23 9	OIL INDIA LIMITED	ASSAM	Goalpara	25	1,65,91,941. 30
10	23 8	OIL INDIA LIMITED	ASSAM	Goalpara	25	1,59,46,792. 40
11	13 45	Bharat Coking Coal Limited	BIHAR	KAIMUR	50	3,24,84,940. 00
12	24 3	Indian Oil Corporation Ltd.	BIHAR	MUNGER	100	4,68,56,932. 00
13	24 4	Indian Oil Corporation Ltd.	BIHAR	MUNGER	50	2,39,91,404. 00
14	28 2	Indian Oil Corporation Ltd.	BIHAR	ROHTAS	50	2,90,21,330. 00
15	31 2	Indian Oil Corporation Ltd.	BIHAR	KAIMUR	100	6,00,39,735. 00
16	35 5	Indian Oil Corporation Ltd.	BIHAR	NAWADA	55	3,39,49,411. 00
17	12 67	Numaligarh Refinery Limited	BIHAR	NAWADA	55	3,33,61,448. 00
18	64 8	NORTH EASTERN COALFIELDS LIMITED	CHHATTISGARH	Kanker Division	20	2,57,32,978. 70
19	74 9	NORTH EASTERN COALFIELDS LIMITED	CHHATTISGARH	Janjgir-Champa Division	10	1,28,66,480. 00
20	82 3	NORTH EASTERN COALFIELDS LIMITED	CHHATTISGARH	Marwahi, Pendra Road Division	25	3,21,66,200. 00
21	39 0	NORTH EASTERN COALFIELDS LIMITED	CHHATTISGARH	Jashpur Division	19	2,44,46,333. 00

22	26 2	NTPC Limited	CHHATTISG ARH	Marwahi, Pendra	9	1,15,79,832. 00
23	12 3	NTPC Limited	CHHATTISG ARH	Raigarh Division	10	1,28,66,480. 00
24	12 0	NTPC Limited	CHHATTISG ARH	Raigarh Division	15	1,92,99,720. 00
25	27 7	NTPC Limited	CHHATTISG ARH	Janjgir-Champa Division	15	1,89,13,725. 60
26	26 6	SOUTH EASTERN COALFIELDS LIMITED	CHHATTISG ARH	Marwahi, Pendra	12	1,54,11,704. 00
27	12 43	SOUTH EASTERN COALFIELDS LIMITED	CHHATTISG ARH	Janjgir-Champa Division	5	64,21,543.00
28	12 43	SOUTH EASTERN COALFIELDS LIMITED	CHHATTISG ARH	Janjgir-Champa Division	20	2,56,86,173. 00
29	31 8	SOUTH EASTERN COALFIELDS LIMITED	CHHATTISG ARH	Surajpur Division	30	3,91,08,241. 00
30	29 3	SOUTH EASTERN COALFIELDS LIMITED	CHHATTISG ARH	Surajpur Division	25	3,21,07,742. 00
31	32 3	SOUTH EASTERN COALFIELDS LIMITED	CHHATTISG ARH	Surajpur Division	20	2,56,86,195. 00
32	28 6	SOUTH EASTERN COALFIELDS LIMITED	CHHATTISG ARH	Surajpur Division	20	2,56,86,195. 00
33	46 0	SOUTH EASTERN COALFIELDS LIMITED	CHHATTISG ARH	Korba Division	10	1,28,43,052. 00
34	25 1	SOUTH EASTERN COALFIELDS LIMITED	CHHATTISG ARH	Marwahi, Pendra Road Division	40	5,13,72,346. 00
35	37 9	SOUTH EASTERN COALFIELDS LIMITED	CHHATTISG ARH	Marwahi, Pendra Road Division	25	3,21,07,716. 00
36	27 2	SOUTH EASTERN COALFIELDS LIMITED	CHHATTISG ARH	Marwahi, Pendra Road Division	10	1,28,43,086. 00
37	25 9	SOUTH EASTERN COALFIELDS LIMITED	CHHATTISG ARH	Marwahi, Pendra Road Division	20	2,56,86,173. 00
38	25 2	SOUTH EASTERN COALFIELDS LIMITED	CHHATTISG ARH	Marwahi, Pendra Road Division	26	3,33,92,027. 00
39	28 1	SOUTH EASTERN COALFIELDS LIMITED	CHHATTISG ARH	Marwahi, Pendra Road Division	19	2,44,01,864. 00
40	27 9	SOUTH EASTERN COALFIELDS LIMITED	CHHATTISG ARH	Marwahi, Pendra Road Division	20	2,56,86,173. 00

41	27 4	SOUTH EASTERN COALFIELDS LIMITED	CHHATTISG ARH	Marwahi, Pendra Road Division	15	1,92,99,720. 00
42	27 0	SOUTH EASTERN COALFIELDS LIMITED	CHHATTISG ARH	Marwahi, Pendra Road Division	15	1,92,64,630. 00
43	26 8	SOUTH EASTERN COALFIELDS LIMITED	CHHATTISG ARH	Marwahi, Pendra Road Division	20	2,56,86,173. 00
44	26 5	SOUTH EASTERN COALFIELDS LIMITED	CHHATTISG ARH	Marwahi, Pendra Road Division	15	1,92,64,630. 00
45	26 1	SOUTH EASTERN COALFIELDS LIMITED	CHHATTISG ARH	Marwahi, Pendra Road Division	20	2,56,86,173. 00
46	26 7	SOUTH EASTERN COALFIELDS LIMITED	CHHATTISG ARH	Marwahi, Pendra Road Division	10	1,28,43,086. 00
47	26 3	SOUTH EASTERN COALFIELDS LIMITED	CHHATTISG ARH	Marwahi, Pendra Road Division	10	1,28,43,086. 00
48	21 88	ONGC, Goa	GOA	North Goa Division	5	53,75,508.60
49	37 3	Indian Oil Corporation Ltd.	GUJARAT	Godhra	63	4,92,79,692. 00
50	41 0	Indian Oil Corporation Ltd.	GUJARAT	Sabarkantha	50	3,11,35,874. 00
51	41 1	Indian Oil Corporation Ltd.	GUJARAT	Sabarkantha	50	3,12,21,898. 00
52	41 4	Indian Oil Corporation Ltd.	GUJARAT	Sabarkantha	40	2,47,83,220. 00
53	40 8	Indian Oil Corporation Ltd.	GUJARAT	Surendranagar	20	1,28,49,760. 00
54	47 1	Indian Oil Corporation Ltd.	GUJARAT	Aravalli	22	1,78,36,588. 00
55	33 2	Indian Oil Corporation Ltd.	GUJARAT	Chhotaudepur	25	1,52,50,466. 00
56	34 0	Indian Oil Corporation Ltd.	GUJARAT	Aravalli	36	2,57,04,910. 00
57	46 7	Indian Oil Corporation Ltd.	GUJARAT	Aravalli	10	76,63,502.00
58	46 6	Indian Oil Corporation Ltd.	GUJARAT	Aravalli	10	75,41,688.00
59	42 1	Indian Oil Corporation Ltd.	GUJARAT	Aravalli	30	1,93,03,746. 00
60	92 8	NHPC Limited	GUJARAT	Chhotaudepur	10	76,71,048.00
61	98 0	NHPC Limited	GUJARAT	Vyara	5	58,75,100.00
62	79 8	NHPC Limited	GUJARAT	Sabarkantha	9	66,35,090.00
63	13 51	NHPC Limited	GUJARAT	Surat	10	73,27,166.00

64	13 52	NHPC Limited	GUJARAT	Surat	5	35,54,166.00
65	13 53	NHPC Limited	GUJARAT	Surat	5	38,88,346.00
66	98 4	NHPC Limited	GUJARAT	Vyara	5	58,14,732.00
67	83 7	NHPC Limited	GUJARAT	Vyara	5	55,64,636.00
68	11 21	NHPC Limited	GUJARAT	Vyara	5	58,25,512.00
69	10 31	NHPC Limited	GUJARAT	Dang-North	10	67,47,202.00
70	10 35	NHPC Limited	GUJARAT	Dang-North	5	37,58,986.00
71	10 45	NHPC Limited	GUJARAT	Dang-North	10	67,31,032.00
72	10 19	NHPC Limited	GUJARAT	Dang-North	10	66,37,246.00
73	93 6	NHPC Limited	GUJARAT	Surendranagar	6	44,62,920.00
74	11 20	NHPC Limited	GUJARAT	Vyara	5	51,78,712.00
75	83 9	NHPC Limited	GUJARAT	Vyara	10	76,72,126.00
76	13 43	NHPC Limited	GUJARAT	Vyara	10	65,05,730.00
77	97 7	NHPC Limited	GUJARAT	Vyara	5	70,27,482.00
78	13 44	NHPC Limited	GUJARAT	Vyara	5	57,69,456.00
79	13 41	NHPC Limited	GUJARAT	Vyara	5	58,93,426.00
80	97 9	NHPC Limited	GUJARAT	Vyara	5	58,83,724.00
81	13 40	NHPC Limited	GUJARAT	Vyara	5	61,16,572.00
82	13 42	NHPC Limited	GUJARAT	Vyara	5	67,21,330.00
83	98 5	NHPC Limited	GUJARAT	Vyara	5	59,30,078.00
84	11 25	NHPC Limited	GUJARAT	Banaskantha	10	88,52,536.00
85	91 7	NORTH EASTERN COALFIELDS LIMITED	GUJARAT	Baria	10	71,90,700.00
86	88 7	NORTH EASTERN COALFIELDS LIMITED	GUJARAT	Bharuch Sub Division	10	69,53,100.00
87	86 4	Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd	GUJARAT	Godhra	16	1,27,22,600. 00
88	42 0	Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd	GUJARAT	Sabarkantha	15	1,22,40,800. 00

89	76 3	Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd	GUJARAT	Mahisagar	14	1,33,16,600.00
90	32 1	Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd	GUJARAT	Surat	10	67,12,200.00
91	32 5	Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd	GUJARAT	Surat	20	1,50,10,600.00
92	87 9	Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd	GUJARAT	Gandhinagar	15	1,92,23,600.00
93	86 8	Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd	GUJARAT	Valsad-South	20	1,25,56,500.00
94	83 5	Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd	GUJARAT	Vyara	5	60,58,800.00
95	83 4	Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd	GUJARAT	Vyara	9	1,10,88,000.00
96	90 3	Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd	GUJARAT	Chhotaudepur	10	68,12,300.00
97	94 9	Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd	GUJARAT	Narmada	25	1,56,20,000.00
98	69 2	Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd	GUJARAT	Aravalli	7	54,50,500.00
99	91 4	Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd	GUJARAT	Chhotaudepur	10	65,75,800.00
100	10 26	Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd	GUJARAT	Dang-North	10	68,46,400.00
101	10 30	Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd	GUJARAT	Dang-North	10	64,83,400.00
102	10 32	Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd	GUJARAT	Dang-North	10	69,37,700.00
103	10 34	Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd	GUJARAT	Dang-North	10	65,39,500.00
104	10 66	Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd	GUJARAT	Valsad-North	10	68,13,400.00
105	11 09	Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd	GUJARAT	Valsad-South	10	69,41,000.00
106	11 10	Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd	GUJARAT	Valsad-South	10	65,26,300.00

107	11 19	Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd	GUJARAT	Valsad-South	10	66,69,300.00
108	18 82	Northern Coalfields Limited	MADHYA PRADESH	Damoh(T)	50	1,88,10,215.60
109	18 40	Northern Coalfields Limited	MADHYA PRADESH	Damoh(T)	50	1,84,95,340.60
110	40 9	Northern Coalfields Limited	MADHYA PRADESH	Rewa	40	2,44,74,298.20
111	10 3	Northern Coalfields Limited	MADHYA PRADESH	Sidhi	50	2,90,97,136.00
112	90	Northern Coalfields Limited	MADHYA PRADESH	West Chhindwada	30	1,08,68,326.00
113	91	Northern Coalfields Limited	MADHYA PRADESH	West Chhindwada	20	84,17,504.00
114	14 4	NTPC Limited	MADHYA PRADESH	Singrauli	30	1,67,16,481.00
115	13 8	NTPC Limited	MADHYA PRADESH	Singrauli	25	1,84,70,955.00
116	13 2	NTPC Limited	MADHYA PRADESH	Singrauli	30	1,45,12,552.00
117	13 0	NTPC Limited	MADHYA PRADESH	Singrauli	25	1,52,25,258.00
118	95	NTPC Limited	MADHYA PRADESH	Khargone	35	2,02,46,705.92
119	87	NTPC Limited	MADHYA PRADESH	Khargone	30	1,74,31,318.80
120	13 36	SOUTH EASTERN COALFIELDS LIMITED	MADHYA PRADESH	North Betul	50	1,26,61,978.00
121	21 1	SOUTH EASTERN COALFIELDS LIMITED	MADHYA PRADESH	Sidhi	25	1,58,22,393.00
122	10 1	SOUTH EASTERN COALFIELDS LIMITED	MADHYA PRADESH	Sidhi	20	1,44,21,274.00
123	13 96	NTPC Limited	MAHARASHTRA	East Nashik	20	2,05,65,221.60
124	13 95	NTPC Limited	MAHARASHTRA	East Nashik	25	1,66,49,620.00
125	13 94	NTPC Limited	MAHARASHTRA	East Nashik	15	2,13,86,158.00
126	13 93	NTPC Limited	MAHARASHTRA	East Nashik	10	1,43,83,427.00
127	13 91	NTPC Limited	MAHARASHTRA	East Nashik	10	1,15,85,874.00
128	13 90	NTPC Limited	MAHARASHTRA	East Nashik	15	1,37,27,038.00
129	13 89	NTPC Limited	MAHARASHTRA	East Nashik	25	2,07,87,963.00
130	15	NTPC Limited	MAHARASHTRA	Bhandara	8	1,34,65,864.44
131	13	NTPC Limited	MAHARASHTRA	Bhandara	8	1,30,13,708.12

132	18	NTPC Limited	MAHARASH TRA	Bhandara	7	1,31,20,252. 74
133	17	NTPC Limited	MAHARASH TRA	Bhandara	5	1,16,83,643. 30
134	16	NTPC Limited	MAHARASH TRA	Bhandara	5	1,11,64,286. 42
135	11	NTPC Limited	MAHARASH TRA	Bhandara	12	1,83,76,647. 38
136	8	NTPC Limited	MAHARASH TRA	Bhandara	10	1,88,35,853. 82
137	21 89	Western Coalfields Limited	MAHARASH TRA	Satara	30	2,19,41,088. 40
138	12 72	Western Coalfields Limited	MAHARASH TRA	East Nashik	15	1,69,40,259. 60
139	22	Western Coalfields Limited	MAHARASH TRA	Gondia	10	1,65,98,510. 50
140	23	Western Coalfields Limited	MAHARASH TRA	Gondia	10	1,63,02,193. 60
141	10	Western Coalfields Limited	MAHARASH TRA	Gondia	10	1,33,20,494. 00
142	28	Western Coalfields Limited	MAHARASH TRA	Gondia	8	1,66,52,346. 70
143	27	Western Coalfields Limited	MAHARASH TRA	Gondia	20	2,17,81,991. 00
144	19	Western Coalfields Limited	MAHARASH TRA	Gondia	10	1,13,99,317. 60
145	21	Western Coalfields Limited	MAHARASH TRA	Gondia	20	2,16,74,012. 80
146	35 1	Western Coalfields Limited	MAHARASH TRA	Bhandara	10	1,59,29,554. 30
147	18 19	MAHANADI COALFIELDS LIMITED	ODISHA	Baripada	12.6	1,47,05,949. 50
148	45	MAHANADI COALFIELDS LIMITED	ODISHA	Baripada	10	1,52,25,501. 50
149	46	MAHANADI COALFIELDS LIMITED	ODISHA	Baripada	10	1,52,25,501. 50
150	67	MAHANADI COALFIELDS LIMITED	ODISHA	Jeypore	5	48,18,748.00
151	15 88	MAHANADI COALFIELDS LIMITED	ODISHA	Koraput	10	1,05,51,200. 00
152	59	MAHANADI COALFIELDS LIMITED	ODISHA	Sonepur	10	65,84,285.40
153	17 56	NLC INDIA LIMITED	ODISHA	Athagarh Division	7	70,35,645.00
154	17 57	NLC INDIA LIMITED	ODISHA	Athagarh Division	5	53,05,197.70
155	17 58	NLC INDIA LIMITED	ODISHA	Athagarh Division	8	78,38,331.60

156	17 86	NLC INDIA LIMITED	ODISHA	Bonai	10	90,33,377.00
157	14 43	NLC INDIA LIMITED	ODISHA	Ghumsur South	10	85,17,223.00
158	12 29	NLC INDIA LIMITED	ODISHA	Rairakhol	10	80,23,414.00
159	39	OIL INDIA LIMITED	ODISHA	Angul	5	66,70,145.48
160	40	OIL INDIA LIMITED	ODISHA	Angul	5	68,77,029.46
161	58	OIL INDIA LIMITED	ODISHA	Kalahandi South	20	1,09,94,281. 61
162	36	OIL INDIA LIMITED	ODISHA	Baripada	15	1,73,07,683. 00
163	71	OIL INDIA LIMITED	ODISHA	Keonjhar	20	1,16,03,841. 00
164	10 4	Indian Oil Corporation Ltd.	RAJASTHA N	Ajmer	49	1,56,83,846. 00
165	35 7	Indian Oil Corporation Ltd.	RAJASTHA N	Ajmer	50	1,58,39,121. 00
166	94 7	Indian Oil Corporation Ltd.	RAJASTHA N	Alwar	75	1,80,59,864. 00
167	29 9	COAL INDIA LIMITED	TELANGAN A	Bhadradi Kothagudem	50	3,34,95,233. 00
168	22 9	Indian Oil Corporation Ltd.	TELANGAN A	Bhadradi Kothagudem	45	3,01,49,290. 00
169	29 0	Indian Oil Corporation Ltd.	TELANGAN A	Bhadradi Kothagudem	50	3,28,25,328. 00
170	18 6	NORTH EASTERN COALFIELDS LIMITED	TELANGAN A	Khammam	10	1,19,29,899. 30
171	12 53	Northern Coalfields Limited	UTTAR PRADESH	Mirzapur	5.87	36,48,690.00
172	10 05	NTPC Limited	UTTAR PRADESH	Sonbhadra	25	1,02,96,400. 00
					3610.4 7	2,80,46,90,9 54.29

F. No. HSM-12/24/2023-HSM(pt2)-Part(1), E-220847
Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
Hazardous Substances Management Division

3rd Floor, Prithvi Block
Indira Paryavaran Bhawan
Jor Bagh Road
New Delhi - 110003
Dated: 22nd February, 2024

Office Memorandum

Subject: Modality for taking up Tree Plantation under Green Credit Programme - regarding

1. Introduction:

1.1 The Green Credit Rules have been notified by the Government of India on 12th October 2023 under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. The Green Credit Programme (GCP) encourages industries, companies and other entities to meet their existing obligations or other obligations under any law for the time being in force, and encourage other persons and entities, to undertake voluntary environmental measures *inter-alia* "tree plantation", resulting in award of Green Credits.

1.2 To begin with, tree plantation may be undertaken on degraded land under the control and management of Forest Departments. In this regard, notification for Methodology for Tree Plantation based Green Credit has been published in official gazette.

1.3 In view of the above, the following modality, for taking up tree plantation on degraded forest land under the Green Credit Programme, is prescribed.

2. Modality:

2.1 Registration of Implementing Agency:

Forest Departments/ Forest Development Corporations of States and UTs applicant shall be the Implementing Agency (IA) for implementing Tree Plantation based Green Credit Programme. A State Nodal officer (SNO) of the rank of Principal Chief Conservator of Forests/Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests) for the State/UT shall be appointed by each IA, who shall be responsible for overall coordination and monitoring of Tree Plantation based Green Credit Programme in the state/UT. Implementing Officer (IO) shall be registered by each IA for each Forest Division. Registration of IA, SNO and IO shall be done through

GCP Portal by providing details like name of State/UT, district, division, name of officer, designation, office address, bank account details, etc.

2.2 Criteria for selection of land:

2.2.1 Type of land:

Degraded land parcels under the control and management of Forest Department of the States and UTs shall be eligible for GCP. Only such land parcels and areas suitable for plantation, shall be registered as plantation block in the GCP Portal.

2.2.2 Density of tree plantation:

Plantation block with potential of planting minimum 1100 trees per hectare, taking into account on the local silvi-climatic and soil conditions, shall be selected for registration.

2.2.3 Size of plantation blocks:

Every plantation block shall be a compact area having a minimum size of 5 hectares.

2.2.4 Other conditions:

Plantation block shall be free from all types of encumbrances and plantation to be undertaken in line with management plan/working plan.

2.3 Registration of plantation block:

After selection of land for plantation as above, registration of plantation block shall be done through self-certification on the portal by the IA. Each plantation block shall be registered separately with unique ID.

2.4 Registration of Entity/ Green Credit Applicant (GCA):

Government Institutions (like PWD, CPWD, Irrigation department, etc.), Public Sector Undertakings (State and Central), Non-Government Organisations, Private Companies/Organisations/entities, Philanthropists, Individuals, Group of Individuals registered under Societies Registration Act will qualify as GCA under tree plantation based GCP. Registration of GCA shall be done by providing required details like name & address, proof of identity, contact details, registration details, etc. on the GCP portal.

2.5 Selection of land for the plantation by GCA:

Registered GCAs desirous to apply for Green Credits (GCs) shall request for the allocation of land parcel for plantation from the plantation block registered on the portal.

2.6 Preparation of demand note:

Estimate in INR with provision for plantation and its maintenance (advance work in 1st year and maintenance till 10th year considering cost of escalation) shall be prepared as per Schedule of Rates by the concerned IO. All necessary provisions shall be made while preparing estimate to make the plantation successful.

Plantation estimate with details of Technical and Administrative sanction/approval and other necessary information shall be provided on GCP portal for scrutiny and approval of SNO. After approval of SNO, the Administrator will further scrutinize the estimate from technical point of view and by including administrative cost for monitoring and verification (10% of estimated cost) and a demand note will be generated on the portal (Mechanism of utilization of the administrative cost shall be developed by Administrator separately). Thereafter, entity shall make the payment in the bank account of the Administrator through NEFT/RTGS. After making payment, the IA shall formally allot land parcel/plantation block to the GCA. Preparation of estimate as well as payment shall be done within the stipulated time as specified by the Administrator.

2.7 Plantation and its maintenance:

Plantation works shall be started immediately after receipt of payment from the entity. It shall be the responsibility of the IA to ensure completion of plantation within two years after receipt of payment. All details of plantation and maintenance works along with item-wise expenditure, as prescribed by the Administrator, shall be provided on the portal by IA and IO.

2.8 Issuance of Green Credits (GCs):

As advance works are carried out and seedlings are sourced in the first year and plantation is carried out in the second year, Green Credits will be awarded two years after receipt of payment from the entity. GCs will be awarded to the entity by the Administrator based on total number of trees planted in selected blocks and plantation completion certificate generated online by IA. GCs will be allocated to the entity at the rate of one GC per tree in a standard format through the GCP portal.

3. Monitoring and Audit of Plantation:

Plantation records/details shall be maintained online in a standard format as prescribed by the Administrator. Intensive monitoring by the field officers of the Implementing Agency shall be carried out and reporting shall be done in a prescribed format on the portal to ensure that there is no violation of prevailing methodology, guidelines, rules, etc. under GCP. A monitoring committee of 3-members under the chairmanship of IO, including Assistant Conservator of Forests (ACF) and the entity/GCA as its members shall be constituted. Monitoring committee shall submit half yearly monitoring reports on the GCP portal, as prescribed by the Administrator. Third party shall be engaged for independent monitoring. Separate guidelines shall be issued for accreditation/empanelment of verifiers for verification/monitoring of plantation. The GCP portal will track the

progress and proper records shall be maintained in public domain.

4. Accounting and audit:

Separate savings account in a nationalized bank for the Administrator, SNO, IO and concerned Range Forest Officer shall be opened and maintained for Green Credit Programme. After receipt of payment from GCA, the Administrator will release the funds to SNO to complete the advance works of plantation. Subsequent release of fund to the SNO will be done in installments, as per the progress of the plantation work. Separate guidelines will be developed for fund flow mechanism, fund disbursement, financial and accounting procedures, record keeping process, auditing, etc.

5. Advantages of GCs:

5.1 The plantation taken under GCP, may be exchanged for compliance of Compensatory Afforestation (CA) in case of diversion of forest land for non-forest purposes under Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980, as applicable.

5.2 GCs earned may be used for reporting under ESG leadership indicator or under CSR, as per applicable rules.

This issues with approval of the Competent Authority.



(Nameeta Prasad)

Joint Secretary to Government of India

Email: nameeta.prasad@gov.in

Tel. No.: 011-20819324

To,

The Chief Secretary,
All State/UT Governments

Copy to:

1. Sr. PPS to Secretary/PPS to DGF&SS/PPS to Addl. DGF(FC)
2. Principal Secretary (Forests), All States/UTs

3. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF), all State/UTs;
4. AS/JS, In-Charge GCP
5. DG, ICFRE
6. IGF, NAEB
7. PPS to CEO, NCAMPA/ADG (FC), MoEF&CC, New Delhi;
8. NIC, MoEF&CC with a request to upload a copy on MoEFCC website.

Recorded Forest Areas (RFAs) in States and UTs as per ISFR 2023

(Area in km²)

Sl. No	State/ UTs		Notified Geographical Area (GA)	RFA (in different categories)			Total RFA (2023)	% of GA
				Reserve Forest	Protected Forest	Unclassed Forests*		
1	Andhra Pradesh		1,62,923	31,959	5,069	230	37,258	22.87
2	Arunachal Pradesh		83,743	12,371	11,857	27,312	51,540	61.55
3	Assam		78,438	17,864	0	8,972	26,836	34.21
4	Bihar		94,163	693	6,183	566	7,442	7.90
5	Chhattisgarh		1,35,192	25,899	24,554	9,363	59,816	44.25
6	Delhi		1,483	85	13	6	104	7.01
7	Goa		3,702	119	755	397	1,271	34.33
8	Gujarat		1,96,244	14,574	2,898	4,398	21,870	11.14
9	Haryana		44,212	249	1,158	152	1,559	3.53
10	Himachal Pradesh		55,673	1,883	28,887	7,178	37,948	68.16
11	Jharkhand		79,716	4,500	18,922	1,696	25,118	31.51
12	Karnataka		1,91,791	28,690	3,931	5,663	38,284	19.96
13	Kerala		38,852	11,522	0	0	11,522	29.66
14	Madhya Pradesh		3,08,252	61,886	31,098	1,705	94,689	30.72
15	Maharashtra		3,07,713	50,865	6,433	4,654	61,952	20.13
16	Manipur		22,327	1,926	3,254	12,238	17,418	78.01
17	Meghalaya		22,429	1,125	12	8,371	9,508	42.39
18	Mizoram		21,081	4,499	1,823	1,157	7,479	35.48
19	Nagaland		16,579	234	9	8,389	8,632	52.07
20	Odisha		1,55,707	36,049	25,133	22	61,204	39.31
21	Punjab		50,362	44	1,137	1,903	3,084	6.12
22	Rajasthan		3,42,239	12,176	18,588	2,105	32,869	9.60
23	Sikkim		7,096	5,452	389	0	5,841	82.31
24	Tamil Nadu		1,30,060	20,523	1,053	1,612	23,188	17.83
25	Telangana		1,12,122	25,800	1,592	296	27,688	24.69
26	Tripura		10,486	3,588	2	2,705	6,295	60.03
27	Uttar Pradesh**		2,40,928	11,571	330	5,534	17,435	7.24
28	Uttarakhand		53,483	26,547	9,885	1,568	38,000	71.05
29	West Bengal		88,752	7,054	3,778	1,053	11,885	13.39
30	A & N Islands		8,249	5,613	1,558	0	7,171	86.93
31	Chandigarh		114	32	0	3	35	30.70
32	Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu		602	206	5	6	217	36.05
33	Jammu & Kashmir	Shapefile Area*** (54,633)	2,22,236	17,648	2,551	0	20,199	9.09
34	Ladakh	Shapefile Area*** (1,68,055)		7	0	0	7	-
35	Lakshadweep		30	0	0	0	0	-
36	Puducherry		490	0	2	11	13	2.65
Total			32,87,469	4,43,253	2,12,859	1,19,265	7,75,377	23.59

Source: State / UTs Forest Departments

* Unclassed Forest includes all forest other than Reserve Forest and Protected Forest as reported by State / UTs Forest Departments.

** In case of Uttar Pradesh, the RFA excludes 9,662.76 km of linear plantations along Road, Railway line and Canal.

*** Area of shape file provided by Survey of India (August 2021).