

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3761
TO BE ANSWERED ON 24.03.2025

Forest and Wildlife Conservation in Nandyal

3761. DR. BYREDDY SHABARI:

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

- (a) the details of the current forest cover in Nandyal district, in the State of Andhra Pradesh and the changes observed during the last five years along with the afforestation/reforestation initiatives undertaken to address deforestation;
- (b) the steps taken by the Government to curb illegal encroachments, deforestation and poaching in the Nallamala Forest Region and the Nagarjunsagar-Srisailem Tiger Reserve;
- (c) the total funds allocated for wildlife protection in Andhra Pradesh and the specific conservation measures implemented for endangered species in Nallamala forests; and
- (d) whether any new projects or initiatives are being planned to strengthen forest and wildlife conservation in the region and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

- (a) Forest Survey of India (FSI), Dehradun, an organization under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, 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). The forest cover assessment is a wall-to-wall mapping exercise based on remote sensing supported by intensive ground verification and field data from the National Forest Inventory.

As per ISFR 2023, the forest cover in Nandyal district in Andhra Pradesh is 2,098.76 square kilometre which is 21.60% of its geographical area. The forest cover change observed in Nandyal district is available only for the last two years and between ISFR 2021 and ISFR 2023, the forest cover has decreased by 6.30 square kilometer.

Further, as per information received from Government of Andhra Pradesh, the activities like water conservation measures, protection of forests & wildlife, habitat improvement, development of fodder plots and protection against fire have been taken up to improve the natural regeneration and forest cover.

- (b) The Protection, conservation 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; the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and the State Forest Acts and Rules, etc. To prevent encroachment on forest land, several legal provisions exist under these Acts/Rules. Further, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change issues advisories to State Governments/UT Administrations to protect forests and trees, and mitigation of deforestation as per the provisions of the law. Further, in order to protect forests, various measures are taken by the State Forest Departments, which include survey and demarcation of forest areas, fixing of pillars along forest boundary and regular patrolling by field staff.

As per information received from the Government of Andhra Pradesh, various steps are taken up by the State to curb encroachments, deforestation and poaching in the Nallamala forest region and the Nagarjunasagar Srisailam Tiger Reserve, which include:-

- (i) Patrolling by frontline staff to control poaching activities, encroachments and smuggling activities,
 - (ii) Round-the-clock efforts by base camps, striking forces, animal trackers, and fire watchers comprising local tribals for combating poaching, encroachments, and smuggling activities,
 - (iii) Check posts have been erected in all important strategic locations.
 - (iv) Monitoring the staff patrolling by the senior officers periodically,
 - (v) Conducting awareness programmes in the villages especially fringe villages among the public about the importance of forests and wildlife
 - (vi) Deployment of flying squad parties, Anti poaching staff for protection and gathering information against the poaching,
 - (vii) Ecotourism activities are encouraged to reduce the dependency on forests for the local tribes as an alternative & sustainable livelihood.
- (c)&(d) As per information received from the Government of Andhra Pradesh, the total funds allocated under various schemes for wildlife protection in the Andhra Pradesh during the year 2024-25 are Rs. 36.35 Crores. The initiatives taken and planned to strengthen forest and wildlife conservation are given as under:-
- (i) Involving Chenchus in protection of forests, wildlife and fire controlling activities.
 - (ii) Plastic Free initiative in Nagarjuna Sagar Srisailam Tiger Reserve (NSTR): NSTR has been observing as a plastic free zone since 1st January, 2024 and has imposed ban on usage of plastic in coordination with line departments and temple authorities for a cleaner and safer ecosystem.
 - (iii) Engaging Swatchhh Sevaks (local volunteers) in plastic waste collection, awareness programs and monitoring compliance in enclosure and fringe villages.
 - (iv) Supervision of Field Staff movement using Vehicle GPS Tracking: A pilot project for supervising the activities of field staff including Forest Range Officers, Strike Force, etc. with state-of-the-art technology deployment has been initiated recently by installing GPS trackers in field vehicles.
