

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3797**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 24.03.2025

**Forest Conservation**

3797. SHRI DHAVAL LAXMANBHAI PATEL

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

- (a) the details of measures taken to balance infrastructure development with forest conservation under the amended Forest Conservation Act, 2023;
- (b) the total forest land diverted for development projects in the last one year and the compensatory afforestation undertaken; and
- (c) the monitoring mechanisms in place to ensure that Compensatory Afforestation is effectively implemented?

**ANSWER**

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

- (a) In order to strike a balance between development and forest conservation, the diversion of forest land is allowed with adequate mitigation measures including the raising of Compensatory Afforestation (CA) and payment of Net Present Value (NPV). The additional mitigation measures in the form of Soil and Moisture Conservation works, Catchment Area Plan and Wildlife Management plan etc. are also stipulated on case-to-case basis.
- (b) & (c) During the financial year 2023-24, the forest area measuring 23436.23ha has been approved to be used for various non-forest purposes under the provisions of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980. The Compensatory Afforestation as applicable is to be taken up by the concerned State/UT after the issue of the order for diversion and as per the approved scheme for the compensatory afforestation.

As far as the monitoring of Compensatory Afforestation is concerned, the internal and third-party monitoring is undertaken to monitor utilisation of funds and quality of afforestation and other activities to evaluate the works implemented in the States and Union Territories. Internal monitoring is carried out by the officials of State Forest Department and Third-party monitoring is conducted by engaging a professional entity. A Monitoring Group at the level of National Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA) besides Steering Committee at the level of State CAMPA as per the provisions of CAF Act, 2016, devise measures for transparency and accountability for monitoring. The assessment of various activities helps in identifying shortcomings and gaps in implementation, which are addressed from time to time for improving the quality of afforestation and other eco-restoration works beside proper utilisation of funds.