

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3880
TO BE ANSWERED ON 24.03.2025

Sacred Groves Forest

3880. SHRI RAO RAJENDRA SINGH:

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

- (a) whether the Government has any information on the sacred groves forest that exist in the country and whether there is any criteria to determine the same;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the steps taken by the Government for the preservation and encouragement of forest worship by various local communities;
- (d) the steps taken to formalise such communities and to bring such areas under the purview of various biodiversity related laws; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government for the protection of the Orans in Rajasthan?

ANSWER

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

- (a) to (e) The management of wildlife and its habitat is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Government. Sacred groves are generally very small patches of trees traditionally protected by local communities for their religious and cultural significance and also contribute in conserving local biodiversity. The Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 empowers State Government for declaration of any private or community land, as a community reserve, for protecting fauna, flora and traditional or cultural conservation values and practices. Further, States can also declare such areas as Biodiversity Heritage Sites under the Biodiversity Act, 2002. The Ministry provides financial assistance to the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations for protection and management of community reserves under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme – Development of Wildlife Habitats based on the annual plan of operations submitted by respective States/Union Territories.
