

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.120
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21.07.2025

Tree Plantation Drive

120. SHRI DARSHAN SINGH CHOUDHARY:

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to plant trees along the National Highways and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to plant trees along the Narmada River and if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to protect the environment on a large scale?

ANSWER

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

- (a) The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) carries out plantations according to mandate of Green Highways (Plantation, Transplantation, Beautification & Maintenance), Policy-2015 following the guidelines and species matrix according to agro-climatic zone of the project area as defined in IRC: SP:21-2009 guidelines. The plantations are being done every year by way of Annual Plantation Action Plan. So far 469.75 lakh saplings have been planted by NHAI in avenues and medians of National Highways during the period 2015-16 to 2024-25.
- (b) There is no exclusive scheme of the Government of India for plantation of trees along the Narmada River. However, the Government of India provides funds to the States/UTs for afforestation under several schemes e.g. CAMPA, MISHTI, Nagar Van, etc., in addition to the State budget allocations, for carrying out plantations including along the river banks including Narmada. An amount of Rs. 70 crore under Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA) has been approved for implementation of 'Aviral Nirmal Narmada' in Madhya Pradesh for plantation on 5,600 ha of land along the Narmada River.
- (c) The Government has been undertaking a number of steps to protect the environment through reducing emissions, combat land degradation, restore ecosystems and enrich biodiversity as part of its holistic approach to conservation.. The National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) provides the overarching framework, supported by missions like Green India for enhancing carbon sinks and restoring degraded ecosystems.

Renewable energy expansion reduces fossil fuel dependence, while the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP), guides conservation of ecosystems and land restoration. Soil health is promoted through sustainable practices and soil health cards. Afforestation is undertaken under Nagar Van Yojana, CAMPA etc, while wildlife conservation is supported through species specific projects like Project Tiger and Project Elephant and the Centrally Sponsored Scheme, Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitat. Wetland and coastal ecosystem restoration, including mangrove restoration under Mangrove Initiative for Shoreline Habitats & Tangible Incomes (MISHTI), contributes to biodiversity and climate resilience. Additional efforts include the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) for air quality improvement and the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) framework for waste management and circular economy promotion. The '*Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam*' campaign has led to 142 crore saplings planted by March 2025. Protected areas have increased to 1,022, including 220 community reserves, 57 tiger reserves, and 33 elephant reserves. Forest and tree cover spans 25.17% of the country's area, with a carbon sink of 2.29 billion tonnes CO₂ equivalent created. Environmental protection and management is thus achieved through a multi-pronged approach involving legislative, regulatory and administrative measures which integrate climate action, biodiversity conservation, and ecosystem restoration.
