

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1906
ANSWERED ON 31ST JULY, 2025**

GREEN HIGHWAYS

1906. Shri Tharaniventhan M S:

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

सड़क परिवहन और राजमार्ग मंत्री

be pleased to state:

(a) the current status of the Green Highways (Plantation, Transplantation, Beautification and Maintenance) Project, including the total length of highways covered and number of trees planted within Tamil Nadu;

(b) the environmental and social benefits achieved so far, particularly in terms of carbon sequestration, air quality improvement and biodiversity conservation;

(c) the challenges faced in the implementation and maintenance of green cover along highways, including issues related to funding, coordination with State Governments and survival rate of plantations; and

(d) the steps being taken to enhance the sustainability and community participation in the Green Highways initiative?

**ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS**

(SHRI NITIN JAIRAM GADKARI)

(a) Under the Green Highways (Plantation, Transplantation, Beautification and Maintenance) Policy, plantation is being undertaken

along various National Highway stretches in the country. Since 2015-16, approximately 5082 km of National Highways in Tamil Nadu have been covered with the plantation of over 27.18 lakh saplings till date.

(b) Greening of highways has ensured significant environmental benefits in terms of air quality improvement, carbon sequestration, reduction in noise pollution, air quality improvement, and biodiversity conservation control of soil erosion, water conservation, climate resilience and biodiversity conservation. Environmentally, the trees planted act as significant carbon sinks, directly mitigating climate change, and drastically improve air quality by filtering pollutants and dust. Socially, the project has generated significant employment opportunities through plantation and maintenance activities, while also enhancing the aesthetic appeal of highways and promoting community engagement and ownership in environmental conservation. Social benefits also include improved road safety, livelihood opportunities and aesthetic values.

(c) While insurmountable challenges are faced with as the plantation and maintenance of trees and plants are done in coordination with the State Governments as well as with local communities, maintenance of the plants and its survival in running highway conditions will always pose a challenge.

(d) Government through its implementing agencies is taking several steps such as use of native species, awareness campaigns etc., to enhance sustainability and community participation including engaging school children and the local communities in the plantation activities and special drives like Ek Pad Maa Ke Naam.

Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam 2.0 campaign is being implemented across the country where school children and community participation in plantation drive is being encouraged. During the current year, an ambitious target of 55 lakh saplings has been set under the campaign Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam 2.0.
