

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3602
TO BE ANSWERED ON 11.08.2025

Setting up of Mangrove Forest

3602. DR. M K VISHNU PRASAD:

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

- (a) the steps taken to increase forest area in Tamil Nadu, particularly in Cuddalore district;
- (b) the number of acres of forest cover in Cuddalore district of Tamil Nadu;
- (c) whether any steps taken by the Government to setup mangrove forest in Cuddalore constituency's coastal village sides, if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the details of forestation drive like planting trees by Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and other industrial houses in Tamil Nadu; and
- (e) the data of lands converted into forest during the last three years in Cuddalore district?

ANSWER

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

- (a) to (c) The Ministry supports afforestation and eco-restoration activities in all States and Union Territories, including Tamil Nadu, through various schemes and programmes. In addition, there are several State/UT-funded schemes that specifically support afforestation and eco-restoration efforts. Based on the inputs received from the State of Tamil Nadu, the Government of Tamil Nadu launched the Green Tamil Nadu Mission in 2021–22 with the objective of increasing the tree and forest cover from 23.71% to 33% of the State's geographical area within 10 years. The mission focuses on enhancing biodiversity, forest productivity, trees on farmlands, urban and peri-urban greenery, green employment, and farmers' incomes. Over the last three years (2022–23 to 2024–25), 10.86 crore seedlings have been planted across the State by the Tamil Nadu Forest Department, other government departments, NGOs, and the public. In Cuddalore district, about 54.25 lakh seedlings have been planted through the involvement of various stakeholders

In addition, the following tree planting activities have been carried out in Cuddalore. In 2022–23, a 20-hectare mangrove plantation was undertaken in Killai and Pitchavaram Reserve Forests under the NABARD scheme. During 2023–24, 100 hectares of degraded mangrove area were restored in Killai Reserve Forest under the Green Tamil Nadu Mission (GTM) Bio-shield initiative. In the same year, 42,000 *Excoecaria agallocha* (Thillai) seedlings were planted in linear rows

in Kudikadu and Killai Reserve Forests under the GTM Bio-shield. Further, in 2024–25, 100 hectares of degraded coastal area in Kodyambalayam and Melathittu were restored under the GTM Bio-shield programme.

The Tamil Nadu Forest Department has undertaken large-scale mangrove restoration with community involvement. From 2022–23 to 2024–25, 95 hectares of new mangroves were planted under NABARD, GTM, and NHAI schemes using modified fish-bone designs. Additionally, 250 hectares of degraded mangrove forests were restored under GTM and Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS), and 52,000 mangrove seedlings were planted using linear methods.

The Government has launched the World Bank-funded TN-SHORE / Tamil Nadu Coastal Restoration Mission for restoring 160 hectares of degraded mangroves through Village Mangrove Councils (VMCs). Additionally the Department of Environment and Climate Change is implementing a ₹4.00 crore project (2025–26 to 2027–28) titled “Creation of Bio-Shield to Prevent the Impact of Sea Level Rise and Coastal Erosion in Cuddalore District,” which includes 60 hectares of mangrove plantation and 20 hectares of coastal bio-shield using resilient species.

As per the India State of Forest Report (ISFR), 2023 published by the Forest Survey of India, the forest cover in Cuddalore district is 385.48 km² (equivalent to approximately 95,254.2 acres).

- (d) & (e) About 1.19 crore seedlings were planted by NGOs, trusts, and private institutions during 2022–23 to 2024–25. Major drives were held on World Forestry Day, World Mangrove Day, Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam, GTM Day, Harbour Day, and similar occasions. No land was converted into forest in the last three years in Cuddalore.
