

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 105**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 01.12.2025

**Ecological Degradation, Deforestation and Biodiversity loss in Tamil Nadu**

105. SHRI ROBERT BRUCE C:

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

- (a) whether the Government has undertaken any assessment of ecological degradation, deforestation and biodiversity loss in the Western Ghats region covering Tirunelveli district of Tamil Nadu during the last five years and the current year;
- (b) the details of the funds allocated and disbursed under centrally sponsored schemes such as the National Afforestation Programme, Green India Mission and Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA) for projects in Tamil Nadu, particularly in Tirunelveli district; and
- (c) the steps being taken by the Government to strengthen central monitoring, enforcing compliance with environmental safeguards and ensuring time-bound restoration of forest and catchment areas in the Western Ghats and the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) As informed by the State Government, the comprehensive assessment of ecological degradation, deforestation and biodiversity loss in the Western Ghats region covering Tirunelveli district has not been conducted.

(b) There is no fund allotment under Centrally Sponsored Schemes such as the National Afforestation Programme and Green India Mission in Tirunelveli district. However, following ear wise fund allotment were received under State CAMPA scheme to the following forest divisions:

| Divisions        | Year    | Amount Spent (Rs.in lakhs) |
|------------------|---------|----------------------------|
| Kalakad          | 2020-21 | -                          |
|                  | 2021-22 | -                          |
|                  | 2022-23 | 3.25                       |
|                  | 2023-24 | -                          |
|                  | 2024-25 | -                          |
|                  | Total   | 3.25                       |
| Ambasa<br>Mudram | 2020-21 | -                          |
|                  | 2021-22 | -                          |
|                  | 2022-23 | 1.190                      |

|  |         |       |
|--|---------|-------|
|  | 2023-24 | -     |
|  | 2024-25 | -     |
|  | Total   | 1.190 |

In CAMPA scheme during 2022-23, planting of Ficus species., in the periphery of water spread area (5 Ha) was carried out and awareness programmes were conducted in both divisions.

(c) In order to protect the rich biodiversity of Western Ghats region, the Ministry Environment, Forest and Climate Change has published the draft notification on Ecologically Sensitive Area of Western Ghats, vide S.O. 3060(E) dated 31.07.2024 with an area of 56,825 square kilometre. Of this, a total area of 6914 square kilometre (12.16%) falls within the State of Tamil Nadu, which includes five talukas of Tirunelveli District namely Ambasamudram, Nanguneri, Shenkottai, Sivagiri and Tenkasi.

Further, the Ministry examines the suggestions provided by the respective State Governments in a holistic manner, keeping in the view the conservation aspects of the ecosystem, and the rights, privileges, needs and developmental aspirations of the region.

Further, the protection and preservation of trees in the Western Ghats of Tamil Nadu has been strengthened through a range of legislative and policy interventions. These include Hill Area Protection under the Tamil Nadu Hill Area (Preservation of Trees) Act, 1955, Hill Area Conservation Authority, constituted under the Tamil Nadu Town and Country Planning Act, 1971, notification of ecologically significant areas contiguous with or enclaved within forest areas are notified as Private Forests under the Tamil Nadu Preservation of Private Forests Act, 1949. In addition, several conservation initiatives also contribute to safeguarding the Western Ghats, such as Project Tiger and Project Elephant, Agasthiyarmalai Biosphere Reserve, Restoration of Degraded Forests (RDF) Landscapes, Grassland Management Schemes for the restoration of native grasses.

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