GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2388
TO BE ANSWERED ON 15.12.2025

Implementation of the Green Credit Programme

2388.   SHRI TAPIR GAO:
        SHRI DILESHWAR KAMAIT:
        SHRI KALIPADA SAREN KHERWAL:
        SHRI RAJESH NARANBHAI CHUDASAMA:
        SMT. BIJULI KALITA MEDHI:

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

(a) the details of the mechanism adopted under the Green Credit Programme for registration of degraded land, issuance of Green Credits and digital monitoring of plantation activities;
(b) the categories of participants eligible to undertake plantation activities under the programme;
(c) the details of authority in charge of auditing the plantations activities under the tree planting component of the Programme and assigning green credits;
(d) the rationale behind choosing a five year period for generation of green credits under the tree plantation activity during the said period;
(e) the details of number of trees planted and survived under the said programme so far, year-wise; and
(f) the details of the outcomes achieved so far in the programme in terms of enhancing forest and tree cover, building an inventory of degraded land for afforestation and encouraging citizen and corporate participation in sustainable environmental initiatives?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (f) The Green Credit Programme is an innovative mechanism to incentivise environmentally positive actions and to promote the LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment) movement, which aims at encouraging sustainable lifestyles by driving community towards behavioural changes that support environment-friendly actions. The Green Credit Programme aims to increase green cover, enhance carbon sequestration, restore degraded lands and reduce carbon footprint through the adoption of environment-friendly technologies and practices.

The Central Government has notified Green Credit Rules, 2023 on 12th October 2023 under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 to encourage voluntary environmental positive actions resulting in issuance of Green Credits. Under the Green Credit Programme, the modality for tree plantation and eco-restoration of degraded forest lands has been notified on 22nd February 2024 and subsequently revised on 29th August 2025. A Green Credit Programme Portal (https://moefcc-gcp.in/) has been developed for the purpose.

The Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education, Dehradun is the Administrator which is responsible for the effective implementation of the Green Credit Programme, including its management, operation and issuance of green credits under these rules.

The Green Credit Programme aims to restore degraded forest lands through the active participation of public and private sector entities. The degraded forest land parcels proposed to be taken up under the Green Credit Programme are selected and registered by the State Forest Department after due verification on the ground.

The Green Credits can be claimed by an applicant only after minimum five years of restoration work have been completed and a minimum canopy density of forty per cent has been achieved. A five-year establishment period is prescribed to allow the planted seedlings and natural regenerations to mature and develop adequate canopy cover, so as to achieve the prescribed 40 per cent canopy density, corresponding to a moderately dense forest. The "designated agency" designated under the Green Credit Programme shall conduct verification of the claim for the Green Credits and submit report to the Administrator as regard to the verification of the activities undertaken by an applicant for issuance of green credit. Transparency and accountability of the Green Credit Programme is enabled through methodologies, guidelines and digital processes.

The forest restoration activities under the Green Credit Programme aim to enhance biodiversity and improve the ecological health and productivity of forest resources.

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