

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5018
TO BE ANSWERED ON 23.03.2026

Forest Conservation

5018. SMT. BHARTI PARDHI:
SHRI SHRIRANG APPA CHANDU BARNE:
SHRI ATUL GARG:
DR. SHRIKANT EKNATH SHINDE:
SHRI RAVINDRA DATTARAM WAIKAR:
SHRI NARESH GANPAT MHASKE:

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

- (a) whether the Government recognises forests as critical ecological assets contributing to environmental stability, biodiversity conservation and climate resilience in the country particularly in Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh;
- (b) the details of measures taken to strengthen forest conservation, afforestation and sustainable forest management across the country;
- (c) whether initiatives have been undertaken to promote research, documentation and preservation of forest ecosystems and associated cultural heritage, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) the details of steps taken to address threats, such as deforestation, illegal logging and climate change; and
- (e) the expected role of forest conservation in achieving India's climate commitments and ecological sustainability goals?

ANSWER

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

(a) Yes, the Government recognises forests as critical ecological assets that play a vital role in maintaining environmental stability, conserving biodiversity and enhancing climate resilience across the country, including in the States of Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh.

(b) and (c) The Ministry provides technical and financial support to the States and Union Territories through various schemes and programmes of the Central Government for increasing forest and tree cover, including protection, conservation and sustainable management of forests in the country. These include, inter alia, the National Mission for a Green India (GIM), Nagar Van Yojana (NVY), Mangrove Initiative for Shoreline Habitats and Tangible Incomes (MISHTI), Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA), Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats, and forest fire prevention and management schemes. In addition, States and Union Territories implement State-specific afforestation, reforestation and forest conservation schemes in accordance with their ecological, climatic and geographic conditions.

Further, a plantation campaign “एक पेड़ माँ के नाम #Plant4Mother” has also been launched on the occasion of World Environment Day 2024 and in the current year also to undertake plantation activities across the country. This campaign follows the “Whole of Government” and “Whole of Society” approach with participation of all stakeholders for increasing the green cover in the country. The campaign has contributed to large scale plantation aiding the enhancement of green cover in the country.

The Ministry promotes research, documentation and academic activities relating to forestry and forest ecosystems through institutions such as the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education and the Indian Institute of Forest Management. These institutions undertake research, training, consultancy and knowledge dissemination in areas such as forest management, biodiversity conservation, climate change and natural resource management.

(d) and (e) The Protection and management of forest are primarily the responsibility of the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. There are legal frameworks for the protection and management of forest resources of the country which include, the Indian Forest Act 1927, Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam 1980, and the State Forest Acts, Tree Preservation Acts and Rules, etc. The State Governments /UT Administrations take appropriate actions to protect forest and tree resources and address deforestation, illegal logging under the provisions made under these Acts/ Rules.

India has submitted its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) first in 2015, and updated it in August 2022. One of the goals under the NDC is to create an additional carbon sink of 2.5-3 billion of tonnes of CO₂ equivalent through increased forest and tree cover by 2030.

The Government is implementing a National Mission for a Green India under the National Action Plan on Climate Change. The Mission focuses on increasing forest cover, restoring degraded forests and enhancing ecosystem services through community participation. As per India State of Forest Report (ISFR) 2023, an additional carbon sink of 2.29 billion tones CO₂ equivalent has been created between 2005 and 2021 against the NDC target 2.5 to 3 billion tonnes by 2030.
