

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 141**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 04.12.2023

**Compensatory Afforestation**

141. SHRI T.R. BAALU:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that 5 million hectares of forest lands have been diverted for non-forestry purposes after the implementation of Forest Conservation Act, 1980 against which only 1 million hectares of compensatory afforestation has been done;
- (b) if so, whether any special plan has been made to enhance afforestation so that Net Zero Carbon Emission target of 2070 could be realized; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)

- (a) to (c) An area of 10,20,381.29 hectare or approximately 1.02 million hectare of forest land has been diverted for non-forestry purposes since implementation of the Forest Conservation Act, 1980 (FCA,1980). The Compensatory Afforestation on equivalent non-forestry land or degraded forest land double in extent to the area diverted is stipulated as per rules/guidelines in case of diversion of forest land under FCA, 1980 for compensating the loss of forest and ecosystem services. The Central Government has enacted the Compensatory Afforestation Fund Act, 2016 with the objectives of compensating the loss of forest land and ecosystem services due to diversion of forest land for non-forestry purposes through compensatory afforestation, improvement of quality of forest, restoration of degraded forests, enrichment of biodiversity, forest fire prevention measures and improvement of wildlife habitat etc. As per the information received from the States and Union Territories, compensatory afforestation has been carried out over 10,29,339.40 hectare or 1.03 million hectare against the diverted forest land of 1.02 million hectare.

India, at the 26<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 26) in November, 2021, announced its target to achieve net zero by 2070. India's long-term low-carbon development strategy rests on seven key transitions to low-carbon development pathways and one of the strategy is enhancing forest and vegetation cover consistent with socioeconomic and ecological considerations. Further in consonance with National Forest Policy (NFP), 1988,

which envisages the national goal to have a minimum of one- third of the total land area under forest or tree cover and two-third of the area under such cover in the hill and mountainous regions of the country, various afforestation related schemes aiming at promoting tree plantations are implemented by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and other ministries. The Ministry supports the States/Union Territories for carrying out various afforestation/tree plantation activities under Centrally Sponsored Schemes like National Mission for a Green India (GIM), Nagar Van Yojana, compensatory afforestation, afforestation on natural landscapes under Mission Namami Gange etc including taking suitable measures for promoting trees outside forest with involvement of people. In addition, States and Union Territories also implement various schemes promoting tree plantation activities under State/UT Plan, MGNREGA etc. The Central Government has also recently launched Mission MISHTI for afforestation and restoration of mangroves in 540 sq. km area along the 7,500 km coastal belt of the country.

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