

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1668
TO BE ANSWERED ON 13.02.2023

Tree Plantation

1668. SHRI RATANSINH MAGANSINH RATHOD:
SHRI RAJENDRA AGRAWAL:
SHRI PATEL HASMUKHBHAI SOMABHAI:

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

- (a) whether the steps are being taken by the Government to promote trees plantation and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the details of funds allocated for trees plantation in the State of Gujarat during the last three years;
- (c) Whether the Government has any proposal to plant more trees to stop air pollution and if so, the details thereof?
- (d) the details of Tree Outside Forest Initiative along with the target fixed by the Government for tree plantation as implemented in seven States, State-wise along with the details of funds allocated for the said initiative;
- (e) whether the Government intends to implement such initiative in other States as well; and
- (f) the other steps taken to prevent deforestation across the country in the future and the progress of the implementation of other afforestation schemes along with the funds release for the purpose during the last three years?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)

(a)to (f): 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 implemented by Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEF&CC) and other ministries aim at promoting tree plantations. MoEF&CC supports the States/Union Territories for carrying out various afforestation/tree plantation activities under Centrally Sponsored Scheme like National Mission for a Green India (GIM),Nagar van Yojana, compensatory afforestation under Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA) etc. State/UTs also implement various schemes promoting tree plantation activities under State/UT Plan, MGNREGA etc.

An amount of Rs.19,740.93 Lakhs has been allocated by Gujarat for promoting tree plantation activities in the State during the last three years. Annual afforestation /tree plantation targets are fixed by the Ministry for all States/UTs which are achieved through the concerted efforts.

The Trees Outside Forests in India (TOFI) program has been launched by the Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change, Government of India and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) for implementation in seven states including Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Haryana, Odisha, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, and Uttar Pradesh with an outlay of \$ 25 million for a period of five years. The purpose of this program is to expand the planting of trees outside of forests (TOF) for enhanced provision of ecosystem services, especially carbon sequestration, and increased inclusive livelihoods and economic opportunities for the rural population. The program also envisages innovative financing models to promote tree-based enterprises and the sale of carbon credits, helping to create sustainable markets and improve rural economies and livelihoods, with the potential to benefit more than 13 million people.

The protection of forest including protection against illegal felling is primarily looked after by States/UTs Forest Department through their frontline staff at beat, block, range and division level by conducting regular patrolling, surveillance and field visits. Local institutions including Joint Forest Management Committees assist the frontline staffs of the States/UTs forest department in protection, regeneration and afforestation.

Under different schemes like GIM, CAMPA, MGNREGA, State Plans, afforestation on forest and non forest area has been undertaken to increase forest cover. In case of GIM so far Rs. 690.39 Crores has been released to the States since 2015. In case of CAMPA, Rs. 51,768.76 Crores has been released to the States/UTs since 2019.
