

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3406
ANSWERED ON:17.03.2015
TREE PLANTATION
Bidhuri Shri Ramesh

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

- (a) whether the Government has any scheme/proposal for plantation of trees along the National Highways in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has any monitoring system to check the indiscriminate cutting of trees and to ensure the plantation of trees at the places where the trees have been cut; and
- (d) if so, the manner in which the monitoring is being carried out?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE. (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR)

(a) & (b) Yes Sir, plantation of trees along the National Highways are carried out as per the guidelines contained in the Indian Roads Congress: Special Publication- 21- 2009 on landscaping and tree plantation. Under these guidelines, the obligation to raise strip plantation on either sides of the road and central verge at project cost, as per IRS Specifications, with maintenance of 7 to 10 years and submitting design of providing at least 2-3 rows of long rotation indigenous species, rests with the user agency. One of the submissions under the National Mission for a Green India also provides for plantation along Highways.

(c) & (d) In the approval of different proposals for non-forestry use of forest land under the provisions of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, the cutting of trees is allowed to the bare minimum with the condition that mitigative measures like compensatory afforestation on degraded forest land, plantations along the National Highways and other available places along the Highways will be carried out. The monitoring of mitigative measures are carried out mainly by the State Government through the concurrent monitoring and mid-terms evaluations. These are further subject to monitoring through geo-referenced data of the plantation site.