

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1556

ANSWERED ON:25.07.2017

Van Mahotsav

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

- (a) whether the Government has observed 'Van Mahotsav' recently;
- (b) if so, the details of programmes organized during the 'Van Mahotsav' in the country;
- (c) whether the Government has laid emphasis on 'Van Dhan' to enhance the country's forest based economy and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the details of the schemes being implemented along with the funds allocated/ spent during each of the last three years and the current year for this purpose, scheme-wise; and
- (e) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to keep local people involved in plantation drives and spread environmental awareness in the country

**Answer**

MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE  
(DR. HARSH VARDHAN);

(a) & (b) Van Mahotsav is observed in the month of July every year by all States and Union Territories. The Ministry participated in the Van Mahotsav programme organized by Government of Rajasthan in the current year. During this event, more than five lakh seedlings were planted in Rajasthan.

(c) Government of India has emphasized 'Van Dhan' strategy for the development of the tribal people and their progress with forest based economic activities. This would ensure environment protection, ecological conservation and economic progress of the people in most ethical ways. No specific scheme has been formulated on "Van Dhan". However, for the development of forest resources and to promote forest based economy, Government of India is implementing number of forestry based schemes/programmes such as Centrally Sponsored Schemes of Intensification of Forest Management Scheme, Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitat, Project Tiger etc. Further, to increase the forest cover in the country, afforestation programme is taken up under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes such as National Afforestation Programme (NAP), Green India Mission (GIM), Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), the Watershed Development Component of the "Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY)" etc. Further, the State Governments also take up various activities under their respective State Plan Schemes.

(d) Government of India is implementing National Afforestation Programme and Green India Mission for afforestation through the States/Union Territories. Funds released during each of last three years and current year are as follows:

Funds Released (Rs. In Crore)

Scheme 2014-15 2015-16 2016-17 2017-18

NAP 243.78 94.16 59.35 0.00

GIM 0.00 70.09 41.25 0.00

State Governments/Union Territories also take up various afforestation activities under their respective plan schemes including from the funds under State Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA).

(e) To keep the local people involved in the plantation drives and spread environmental awareness in the country, various measures/ activities are taken up by Government of India such as:

• Observing Van Mahotsav during which seedlings are distributed among public and different organizations

• Ensuring participation of the Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMCs) and Eco Development Committees (EDCs) which are constituted from the local people in the forest fringe villages in plantation programmes under National Afforestation Programme and Green India Mission etc.

• Conducting awareness programmes under various Centrally Sponsored Scheme including under National Afforestation Programme and Green India Mission.

• Under Environmental Education, Awareness and Training (EEAT) scheme of this Ministry, the following programmes are undertaken for spreading environment awareness in the country:

(i) National Green Corps programme in which a network of Eco-clubs has been established in schools across the country to undertake activities on various environmental issues such as cleanliness drives, rally's, celebration of environmental days, plantation drives etc.

(ii) National Nature Camping Programme wherein the students are sensitized about nature and conservation of biodiversity, natural resources and to experience with nature through conduct of nature camps.

(iii) National Environment Awareness Campaign wherein large number of NGOs, schools, colleges, universities, professional associations and communities participate actively.

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