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Title: Need to take steps to conserve the ecology in Himachal Pradesh.

SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH (MANDI): The Himachal Pradesh Government aims to preserve and intensify the forest cover to recreate the pristine glory of selected area in the state which will lead to increase in the life of major river valley projects located in the North-Western India, provide adequate water resources to the downstream states and also lead to improve environmental quality locally. Plantation programmes to cover an additional area of 5,000 square kilometers by 2020. This means planting an additional area of 25,000 hectares per annum for 20 years. For this purpose it has become imperative to raise Himachal ecological TA battalion which owing to multifaceted and complex global state of affairs affecting Himachal Pradesh can undertake the task, relieve the regular Army from state duties and assist Civil administration in dealing with natural calamities and maintenance of essential services in situations, where life of the Communities is affected or the security of the country is threatened and in peace time to help the state government to conserve the ecology of the state.

I would urge the centre Government that Himachal Ecological TA battalion should be raised as early as possible.