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Title : Need to launch an afforestation drive along National Highways in the country to increase green cover in the country.

SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN (DINDIGUL): Afforestation and reforestation can be used to improve the quality of human life by soaking up pollution and dust from the air, re-building natural habitats and ecosystems, mitigate global warming and more particularly to get rain.

India has vast tracts of land along the National Highways throughout the country. This land can be utilized for planting trees of various utilities including minor economic uses, minor forest produces as well as for providing shelter against the scorching sun rays.

People appreciate such types of plantation but now-a-days Government agencies or other organizations are not keeping utility factor in mind. They are more interesting in planting those saplings which grow faster so that they can reap the benefits within a short time without taking the consideration whether the plants are really useful or not.

I request the Union Government to take action for plantation of trees on a large scale on the sides of National Highways throughout the country. Those who are engaged in the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme may be diverted to plant the saplings and to nurture them to a certain extent.