

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4128
TO BE ANSWERED ON 19.03.2021

Capacity of Carbon Sinks

4128. SHRIMATI RITA BAHUGUNA JOSHI:
SHRIMATI NAVNEET RAVI RANA:

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

- (a) the current capacity of carbon sinks in India in terms of Carbon dioxide (CO₂) equivalent;
- (b) the current rate of afforestation in India, State/UT-wise;
- (c) whether the said rate is commensurate with the target of creating an additional carbon sink of 2.5 to 3 billion tonnes of CO₂ equivalent through additional forest and tree cover by 2030 mentioned in the India's Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs) and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor and the intended plan to achieve the stated target;
- (e) whether the Government has made any plans to include massive tree-planting efforts and the restoration of wetlands to absorb carbon; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI BABUL SUPRIYO)

(a) & (b) According to the India State of Forest Report (ISFR) 2019 prepared by Forest Survey of India, the estimated carbon in the Country's forest and tree cover in 2015 was 29.62 billion tonnes of CO₂ equivalent. As per ISFR-2019, India's total forest cover in 2019 is 7,12,249 sq. km. and total tree cover is 95,027 sq. km. Together, this constitutes 24.56% of the geographic area of the country. Since 2015-16 to 2019-20, annual afforestation on an average of 1.6 million hectares has been achieved collectively by all agencies in States/UTs through various afforestation and tree planting programmes. Achievements of afforestation/ tree planting for the year 2015-16 to 2019-20 is at Annexure.

(c) to (f) Government of India has taken several initiatives towards creating a carbon sink of 2.5 to 3 billion tonnes CO₂ equivalent through additional forest and tree cover by 2030. Financial assistance to States/UTs under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes including, *inter alia*, National Afforestation Programme, Development of Wildlife Habitat, Project Elephant, Project Tiger and Forest Fire Prevention and Management Scheme are supporting such efforts. Further, afforestation is a major activity under the Compensatory Afforestation Fund. These initiatives also help in conservation of very dense forest and moderately dense forest as well as increase in forest and tree cover.

Government of India is implementing National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC), comprising of eight Missions, which provides an overarching policy framework for all climate actions in the country. Under NAPCC, National Mission for a Green India (GIM) aims at protecting, restoring and enhancing India's forest cover and responding to climate change by means of plantation activities in forest and non-forest areas. Started in 2015-16, a sum of Rs. 455.73 crores have been released to fourteen States and one Union Territory for undertaking afforestation activities over an area of 1,67,151 hectares including restoration of Wetlands which will contribute to achieve the NDC target.

India has also committed to achieve land degradation neutrality and restoration of 26 million hectares of degraded land by 2030. This will help in preserving forests and biodiversity, facilitating conservation of natural resources and improving carbon sinks. MoEF&CC is currently implementing a centrally sponsored scheme 'National Plan for Conservation of Aquatic ecosystems (NPCA)' for Conservation and Management of Wetlands NPCA aims at holistic conservation and restoration of wetlands including lakes for achieving the desired water quality enhancement and improvement in biodiversity and ecosystems.

Further, the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare is also implementing the National Agroforestry Policy (NAP) since 2014. The XV Finance Commission has assigned 10% weight to forest and ecology in its horizontal devolution criteria and weights.

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO REPLY IN PART (a) & (b) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4128 DUE FOR 19.03.2021 REGARDING "CAPACITY OF CARBON SINKS" RAISED BY SHRIMATI RITA BAHUGUNA JOSHI AND SHRIMATI NAVNEET RAVI RANA.

Sl. No.	Name of State/UT	Area covered under Afforestation / Tree Plantation (in Ha)				
		2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
1.	Andhra Pradesh	133618	274635	229409	312186	190432
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	8	NR	1861	1614	483
3.	Assam	NR	NR	2085	1020	1394
4.	Bihar	41419	43279	35114	21446	10588
5.	Chhattisgarh	133531	98697	26037	81644	18735
6.	Goa	21	38	15	24	30
7.	Gujarat	150822	168733	177148	31712	25149
8.	Haryana	30643	25474	17000	15639	21022
9.	Himachal Pradesh	11449	10052	9200	23406	20261
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	10863	7307	11371	NR	4526
11.	Jharkhand	NR	21005	22729	15490	31476
12.	Karnataka	69093	61686	62108	41596	40304
13.	Kerala	1117	46695	11477	12982	10274
14.	Madhya Pradesh	7994	99197	125750	174309	76708
15.	Maharashtra	55793	42100	37393	206615	501416
16.	Manipur	2855	12247	6442	5281	1856
17.	Meghalaya	3186	NR	2743	780	785
18.	Mizoram	NR	4050	4020	4407	4425
19.	Nagaland	NR	NR	1539	1317	1468
20.	Orissa	170808	401452	382364	73994	84130
21.	Punjab	2934	5469	6845	12177	24712
22.	Rajasthan	70893	66815	43873	34798	24533
23.	Sikkim	1325	3376	365	41	2510
24.	Tamil Nadu	45129	39790	33147	40882	14532
25.	Telangana	236598	438059	489673	453325	564760
26.	Tripura	2339	4070	4858	8112	33747
27.	Uttarakhand	17846	18251	21397	20713	22396
28.	Uttar Pradesh	165867	92128	51513	NR	347670
29.	West Bengal	12169	2722	25186	30694	36597
30.	A & N Islands	1300	1125	713	3896	2421
31.	Chandigarh	167	178	176	180	123
32.	D & N Haveli	225	220	200	21	225
33.	Daman & Diu	NR	10	15	NR	60
34.	Delhi	1498	1299	NR	NR	3956
35.	Lakshadweep	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
36.	Puducherry	86	250	63	52	80
	Total	1381596	1990409	1843829	1630352	2123786
	NR: Not Reported					