

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 677
TO BE ANSWERED ON 08.02.2021

Deforestation of trees in Goa

677 SHRI SANJAY SINGH:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government proposes to cut fifty thousand trees in two protected forest areas in Goa to make way for three central projects;
- (b) the details of the number of trees cut across the country during the last three years for various development purposes, year-wise, State/UT-wise; and
- (c) the action Government proposes to take to save the trees and forests at the altar of development?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

(SHRI BABUL SUPRIYO)

- (a) All projects including central projects related to States/UTs including Goa which requires forest land are scrutinised and decision is taken by the Central Govt. as per procedure stipulated under the provisions of Forest (Conservation) Act (FCA), 1980. Since April, 2020 two numbers of projects (including central projects) have been accorded final approval under FCA, 1980 and 27,429 number of trees are stipulated to be removed.
- (b) In the last three years (i.e. 2017-18 to 2019-20) 72 lakhs 4 thousand 97 number of trees were stipulated to be removed and more than 17 crore 35 lakhs 3 thousand 420 number of plants have been stipulated for plantation under compensatory afforestation. The year wise details of trees stipulated for removal are **annexed**.
- (c) All the developmental projects for which forest area is required are scrutinised and decided as per the provisions of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. It is ascertained that minimum forest area which is inescapable, is diverted with all possible mitigative measures. To compensate the loss of trees and forest, necessary Compensatory Afforestation (CA) is ensured with the principle to compensate the loss of land by land and afforestation over the acquired land. In addition, plantations are also taken up from the funds under Net Present Value (NPV) levied as additional compensation towards diversions.

The trees are removed only when it is absolutely necessary. As per the Government policy, more trees are planted than number of trees approved for

removal under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. Because of this policy, India's forest cover is increasing. As per the provisions of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, Government of India accords prior permission for non-forest use of forest land. Such permissions are accorded subject to recommendation of the concerned State/UT Government and for unavoidable developmental projects/purposes. While according such permissions, it is ensured that minimum number of trees are removed which are inevitable.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (b) OF THE RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 677 BY SHRI SANJAY SINGH REGARDING DEFORESTATION OF TREES IN GOA DUE on 08.02.2021

S. No.	State/UT	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	Total
1	Andaman and Nicobar	947	5135	5146	11228
2	Andhra Pradesh	255039	198597	2763	456399
3	Arunachal Pradesh	309639	11998	309651	631288
4	Assam	309	117799	275	118383
5	Bihar	42274	43244	17370	102888
6	Chandigarh	0	0	0	0
7	Chhattisgarh	64747	427352	0	492099
8	Dadar & Nagar Haveli	0	0	15	15
9	Daman & Diu	0	0	0	0
10	Delhi	58	0	0	58
11	Goa	3765	0	0	3765
12	Gujarat	70086	82363	56296	208745
13	Haryana	35825	107148	81413	224386
14	Himachal Pradesh	55370	102139	32800	190309
15	Jammu & Kashmir	0	0	0	0
16	Jharkhand	11907	406929	40257	459093
17	Karnataka	21428	1830	18340	41598
18	Kerala	0	531	0	531
19	Lakshdeep	0	0	0	0
20	Madhya Pradesh	368503	326849	242990	938342
21	Maharashtra	329019	144993	4191	478203
22	Manipur	120786	0	8831	129617
23	Meghalaya	0	0	13	13
24	Mizoram	220	189	5145	5554
25	Nagaland	0	0	0	0
26	Orissa	274703	361544	208233	844480
27	Pondicherry	0	0	0	0
28	Punjab	121453	95005	53352	269810
29	Rajasthan	324	22917	24850	48091
30	Sikkim	6387	1358	1700	9445
31	Tamil Nadu	270	819	742	1831
32	Telangana	658104	522242	124945	1305291
33	Tripura	215	120	13402	13737
34	Uttar Pradesh	81060	29196	1742	111998
35	Uttarakhand	69623	21766	9039	100428
36	West Bengal	1677	4579	216	6472
Grand Total		2903738	3036642	1263717	7204097