

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2128
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21.12.2023

Increase in CAMPA funds for Uttarakhand

2128. SHRI NARESH BANSAL

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

- (a) Whether it is a fact that 80 per cent area of Uttarakhand is green belt and under forest, if so, whether the Central Government proposed to increase Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA) funds to Uttarakhand;
- (b) Whether CAMPA funds are being used by States for other activities as well apart from afforestation, if so, the State-wise details thereof; and
- (c) Whether the budget of Forest Department of States has been decreased due to the allocation of CAMPA funds, if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)

- (a) As per India State of Forest Report, 2021, the recorded forest cover in Uttarakhand is 71.05% of the geographical area of the State. The Compensatory Afforestation Fund (CAF) Act, 2016 and the Compensatory Afforestation Fund (CAF) Rules, 2018 provide the legal framework for receipt of compensatory levies for compensating the loss of forest and ecosystem services from various User Agencies in lieu of diversion of forest land for non-forestry purposes as per provisions of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. The 90% of the compensatory levies being State/UT CAMPA Fund belong to respective State and Union Territories and are deposited in their respective Public Accounts.
- (b) The CAF Act, 2016 and CAF Rules, 2018 provide the manner and activities in which CAMPA funds are to be utilised by various State/Union Territory (UT) Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (State/UT CAMPA). The State/UT CAMPA prepare Annual Plan of Operations and after approval of their respective Executive Committee and Steering Committee send to National Authority for approval for carrying out CAMPA activities. Section-6 of the CAF Act, 2016 provides for disbursement & utilisation of State CAMPA Fund for site specific mandatory activities like Compensatory Afforestation and other activities as per approved proposals for diversion of forest land under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. Further, the Rule 5 of the CAF Rules, 2018 specifies the afforestation and other

activities under NPV funds which makes it necessary to spend not less than eighty percent of NPV funds for forest and wildlife management including afforestation and remaining not more than 20% of NPV funds on strengthening of forest related infrastructure, capacity building of the personnel involved in utilisation of State Fund.

- (c) As per information received from States and Union Territories CAMPA Authorities, there is no decrease in the budget of Forest Department of States/ Union Territories due to allocation of CAMPA Funds.
