

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 698
TO BE ANSWERED ON 08.02.2024

Creation of land banks

698. Dr. Ameer Yajnik:
Smt. Ranjeet Ranjan:

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

- (a) year-wise and State-wise data on financial losses incurred due to failed Compensatory Afforestation (CA) plantations across the country;
- (b) the methodological specifications laid down by the Ministry for the issue of demarcation of land for afforestation land banks;
- (c) whether there are provisions for consultation and consent of the communities where such land banks are proposed, if not, the manner in which mapping is done, if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the State-wise list of land banks created or proposed for afforestation along with the size of land identified/allocated as land banks?

ANSWER

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

- (a) The Compensatory Afforestation (CA) plantations are raised in lieu of the forest land diverted for non-forestry purpose as per the provisions of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and Rules thereunder, for compensating the loss of forest and ecosystem services. It is pertinent to mention that the sites identified for raising compensatory afforestation are mostly refractory and degraded, which take long time to evolve into forest like vegetation. In case, where plantation is not established in the initial years, continuous efforts are made for ensuring success of such plantation.
- (b) to (c) No specification/ methodology has been laid down by this Ministry for demarcation of land bank for afforestation. The 'land' is a subject matter of the State Government, therefore, identification and demarcation of land for afforestation is being done by the States/UTs as per their rules and guidelines applicable in the respective States/UTs.
- (d) The details of land banks created or proposed for Compensatory Afforestation are maintained by the concerned State/UT and not at the level of this Ministry.
