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भारत सरकार

Government of India

राष्ट्रीय प्रतिपूरक वनरोपण निधि प्रबंधन एवं योजना प्राधिकरण

National Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority

पर्यावरण, वन और जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय

Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

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दिनांक \Dated: 21st February, 2025

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Please find enclosed the minutes of Parliamentary Consultative Committee held on 23rd January, 2025 (Thursday) in the Conference Hall of Central Academy for State Forest Service at Coimbatore under the Chairmanship of Shri Bhupender Yadav, Hon'ble Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.

The Hindi version of the Minutes will follow

Encl: Minutes of Parliamentary Consultative Committee

KS
21.02.2025

(K.B. Singh)

**Joint Chief Executive Officer
National Authority**

Copy for information and necessary action:

1. The Additional Director General of Forests, Wildlife/ Forest Conservation/ NTCA
2. The Director General, ICFRE, Dehradun.
3. The Director General, FSI, Dehradun.
4. The Inspector General of Forests of NAEB/ Forest Protection Division/ Forest Policy Division/ Wildlife Division/ Forest Conservation/ Survey & Utilization Division/ Project Elephant).
5. The Joint Secretary, Parliament with the request to send the Minutes of the Meeting of Parliamentary Consultative Committee to the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs and concerned Division/ Section of Parliamentary Secretariat.

Copy for kind information:

1. PS to Hon'ble Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate
2. PS to Hon'ble Minister of State for Environment, Forest and Climate.
3. PPS to Secretary, MoEF&CC
4. PPS to Director General of Forests and Special Secretary, MoEF&CC.

Minutes of the meeting of the Parliamentary Consultative Committee for the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change held on 23rd January, 2025 on the subject 'Use of funds available with CAMPA'.

The Parliamentary Consultative Committee for the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change met on Thursday, 23rd January, 2025 at 9:15 A.M. in the Conference Hall of Central Academy for State Forest Service at Coimbatore under the Chairmanship of Shri Bhupender Yadav, Hon'ble Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change to discuss *'Use of funds available with CAMPA'*. The list of participants is at **Annexure-I**

2. At the outset, the Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEF&CC) welcomed the Chairman and members of the Committee
3. The Chairman also welcomed the members of the Committee and initiated the proceedings.
4. The Chairman asked the Chief Executive Officer (CEO), National Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management & Planning Authority (National CAMPA) for making agenda-wise presentation. The Chairman asked the officers of the Ministry to translate the proceedings in Hindi and Tamil.
5. The Chairman invited comments on the minutes of the previous meeting of the Committee held on 12th December, 2024 on the nation-wide plantation drive under the theme of **"*Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam*"**. The minutes were adopted by the Committee. Thereafter, the members of the committee were briefed about the Action Taken Report (ATR) on the decisions made during the last meeting.
6. The CEO, National CAMPA made a presentation with an overview on the Compensatory Afforestation Fund Act, 2016 (CAF Act) and progress of implementation of compensatory afforestation and other activities of forest conservation and wildlife improvement carried out by the various States and Union Territories. The CAF Act aims at timely carrying out of compensatory afforestation for compensating the loss of forest land, trees and ecosystem services against forest land diverted for non-forestry purposes. The Committee was briefed on the major initiatives of the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change including Nagar Van Yojna, School Nursery Yojna, Conservation of endangered species with focus on Great Indian Bustard, Dolphin, Dugong and Sangai Deer, Mangrove

Initiative for Shoreline Habitats & Tangible Incomes (MISHTI), Establishment of Meta population of Cheetah in India etc. which are supported by National CAMPA through National Fund. He informed that these schemes of Nagar Van, MISHTI and School Nursery are implemented by the States and Union Territories and therefore proposals for creation of Nagar Van, Mangrove plantation and conservation and School Nursery are obtained from States and Union Territories.

7. The Chairman stressed about ensuring the proper use of funds available with State CAMPA for expeditious implementation of compensatory afforestation and restoration of degraded forests. He mentioned that local trees species are encouraged for plantation under with an emphasis on fruit bearing trees, medicinal plants and fodder species for enriching the biodiversity, improvement of wildlife habitat and for providing livelihood support to local communities. He highlighted that efforts are being made for soil & water conservation, forest fire prevention and control, improvement of wildlife habitat and in strengthening of forest protection infrastructure for improvement in the quality of forests. The Chairman urged Hon'ble Members to visit Nagar Van in their cities and also support in creation of more Nagar Van and School Nurseries to guide and motivate students and youth with their long and varied experience. This will go a long way in improvement of urban environment and biodiversity conservation. He also sought their support of Mangrove conservation under Mission MISHTI and other conservation programmes.

8. Hon'ble Chairman further invited the Hon'ble Committee Members to share their ideas and give suggestions in this regard. Thereafter, Hon'ble Members provided their suggestions. Specific comments/Suggestions/inputs of the members are as following:

(i) Shri Prashant Yadaorao Padole has sought clarification that why CAMPA funds are utilized and focused in city only. The achievement under the Nagar Van Yojna is not as per targets. He has asked the details of the projects under CAMPA for water conservation and amount spent on water conservation specifically. He has enquired on the role of CAMPA in climate change mitigation. and why the fund allocation under MISHTI are uneven across states. He further inquired about the purpose for which the 10% funds under National CAMPA are being utilized, the status of schemes approved under CAMPA in the state of Maharashtra, and the actions being taken to prevent the misuse of funds under CAMPA. He enquired about receiving any representation from Maharashtra state with respect to misuse

of funds under CAMPA. He has also asked about the tiger death, that is 115 tigers out of 3782 tigers and details of the effective measures taken to prevent the deaths.

(ii) Shri Subhashish Khuntia inquired about the gap between the status of funds approved, released, and spent. He asked how much funding has been sanctioned and implemented in Puri, Odisha, and when the Mangrove Initiative for Shoreline Habitats & Tangible Incomes (MISHTI) will start in Odisha. He also inquired if there are any schemes for the conservation of black tigers in Simlipal Tiger Reserve. Additionally, he asked how much plantation has been carried out in the periphery of industries using CAMPA funds. He suggested that Wildlife victims should be compensated immediately.

(iii) Shri Ram Shiromani Verma appreciated the concept of "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam" and raised concerns about the protection of trees in the border areas of Nepal. He also inquired about the status of fund utilization in the state of Uttar Pradesh, particularly in the Balrampur and Samastipur areas. He asked whether any study has been conducted to find out the survival percentage of the saplings after plantation under CAMPA. If so, what is the survival percentage? He suggested that Lion Safari may be established in Uttar Pradesh.

(iv) Smt. T. Sumathy Thamizhachi Thang Pandian raised concerns over the under-utilization of CAMPA funds and the reduction in fund allocation to the state of Karnataka. She emphasized the importance of eco-restoration in areas diverted for non-forest purposes and questioned how the diversion of land in one area and the subsequent plantation in another would address this issue. She also raised concerns regarding the funds allocated for victims of human-wildlife conflict, noting that there is no provision for compensating wildlife victims as per the Compensatory Afforestation Fund Rules, 2018. Additionally, she inquired about the role of CAMPA in helping the country meet its NDC targets of creation of 2.5-3 GT CO₂ equivalent of Carbon sink to be achieved by 2030. She appreciated the School Nursery Yojna but raised concerns about why funds were not allocated to the state of Tamil Nadu for the program. She further suggested eliminating the submission of hard copies of proposals, if the proposals are already uploaded to the PARIVESH Portal by the user agencies. She expressed that the conservation of Western Ghats has been neglected and recommended development of conservation centres and research institutes in the Western Ghat area, as the region is rich in biodiversity.

(v) Shri Alok Sharma appreciated the efforts being undertaken by CAMPA and suggested the creation of a Nagar Van Yojana Samiti involving local public representatives to promote the Nagar Van Yojana. He further recommended creating provisions for establishing veterinary hospitals for treating wild animals in Madhya Pradesh using CAMPA funds for 2025-26 as presently the Forest Department is dependent on veterinary hospitals under Animal Husbandry department for treating wild animals. He also emphasized the use of drone monitoring for fire protection and the establishment of biotechnology labs to promote agroforestry and the cultivation of bamboo, among other initiatives. He requested for the rejuvenation of river Narmada and suggested planting trees up to 2 km from the starting point of the Narmada River.

(vi) Shri Bharat Singh Kushwah expressed appreciation for the work being done under CAMPA and suggested that more soil and moisture conservation activities, along with the plantation of local fruit trees, be undertaken in forests to improve the condition of flora and fauna. Additionally, he recommended the creation of Health Care Parks in urban areas to ensure better public health.

9 . Shri Kirti Vardhan Singh, Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Environment, Forest and Climate Change thanked all the members for providing their valuable suggestions. He appreciated the works being carried out in some of the States using CAMPA funds for afforestation, restoration of degraded forests and conservation of wildlife. He urged Hon'ble members for playing an important role in extending Trees Outside Forest (TOF) by taking advantage of 'Nagar Van Yojana' and plantations under the 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' campaign for improving local environment.

10. Shri Bhupender Yadav, Hon'ble Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change and Chairman, of the Consultative Committee, concluded with the remarks that last meeting of the Committee was held on 12.12.2024 on "*Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam*". The next meeting may be scheduled in the second part of budget session. The subject of discussion will be "*Human-animal conflict & Elephant*". All the replies of the concerns raised by the members should be sent to the Hon'ble members before the next meeting. After next budget session, CAMPA meeting will be done in Mayurbhanj, Orissa. He further invited all the members to visit ICFRE-Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding and GASS Museum.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair and the participants.

Annexure - I

List of Participants:

1. Shri Bhupender Yadav, Hon'ble Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change and Chairman, Parliamentary Consultative Committee for the MoEF&CC.
2. Shri Kirti Vardhan Singh, Hon'ble Minister of State for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Co-Chair, Parliamentary Consultative Committee for the MoEF&CC.
3. Dr. T. Sumathy Alias Thamizhachi Thang Pandian, Member of Parliament, Lok Sabha and Member, Parliamentary Consultative Committee for MoEF&CC.
4. Shri Alok Sharma, Member of Parliament, Lok Sabha and Member, Parliamentary Consultative Committee for MoEF&CC.
5. Shri Ram Shiromani Verma, Member of Parliament, Lok Sabha and Member, Parliamentary Consultative Committee for MoEF&CC.
6. Dr. Prashant Yadaorao Padole, Member of Parliament, Lok Sabha and Member, Parliamentary Consultative Committee for MoEF&CC.
7. Shri Bharat Singh Kushwah, Member of Parliament, Lok Sabha and Member, Parliamentary Consultative Committee for MoEF&CC.
8. Shri Subhashish Khuntia, Member of Parliament, Lok Sabha and Member, Parliamentary Consultative Committee for MoEF&CC.