



Government of Jammu & Kashmir
Department of Forest, Ecology & Environment
Civil secretariat, J&K

Mr. M. Y. Tarigami, Hon'ble MLA to move the following Cut Motions:-

1. I move a cut of ₹100/- in demand No: 21 in order to discuss the need for formulation of a comprehensive climate adaptation and mitigation strategy in J&K in view of the fragile Himalayan ecosystem being highly vulnerable to climate change, cloudbursts, landslides, and floods to minimize and restrict its aftermath impact.

Reply: The Government has taken several climate mitigation measures as under:

- Afforestation and soil and water conservation works covering 6,500 hectares of ecologically fragile catchments since 2021 to reduce, mitigate slope failures and surface runoff.
- Watershed management and spring rejuvenation under Mega Rejuvenation and Vitality Enhancement (MRAVE) in 48 rural panchayats to strengthen local water security.

The Action Plan on Climate Change mitigation, adaptation and resilience building is being operationalized through the revised State Action Plan on Climate Change, which is presently at an advanced draft stage. The revised SAPCC is based on a comprehensive sector-wise and district-level climate vulnerability assessment, enabling us to design science-based and location-specific interventions. Based on the identified drivers of vulnerability, we have proposed 58 mitigation strategies and 98 adaptation actions across priority sectors. On the mitigation side, we are promoting rooftop solar installations on government and institutional buildings, expanding clean and renewable energy adoption, encouraging energy efficiency, and supporting the transition to electric mobility including induction of EV buses and strengthening associated infrastructure to reduce transport-related emissions.

On the adaptation and resilience front, the SAPCC prioritises slope stabilization, watershed management, forest landscape restoration, ecosystem-based adaptation and climate-resilient infrastructure development. Focused interventions are being designed for agriculture, water resources, forests, health and disaster risk

reduction to address climate-induced stresses and extreme events. Through coordinated inter-departmental implementation, these measures are expected to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, enhance ecological stability and significantly strengthen long-term climate resilience across the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

2. I move a cut of Rs. 100/- in demand No: 21 in order to discuss the status of condonation of the break periods in respect of 09 DRWS of Forest (Territorial) for their regularization as helpers from the date they become eligible in terms of SRO: 64 of 1994 dated 24.03.1994 already cleared by the Finance department and the Empowered Committee for regularization subject to condonation of the break periods by the competent authority.

Reply: There is no leftover unregularized Daily Wager existing at present in Special Forest Division, Kulgam.

3. I move a cut of Rs. 100/- in demand No:21 in order to discuss the status of the proposal in respect of reorganization/restructuring of various wings of forest department as also reviewing and rationalizing the recommendations proposed under the Non-Functional Scheme(NFS), vide No. PCCF/Estt/G/186366/2506 and for permitting placement/promotion to the next higher gazetted grade after completion of five years of service as Range Officer Grade-I, by duly considering the total length of service rendered in the department, as well as for removing the anomaly of gazetted officers drawing non-gazetted pay levels.

Reply: The department is contemplating to formulate a comprehensive proposal for reorganization/ restructuring of various wings of the department for which a proposal from PCCF/ HoFF has been sought.

The proposal of restructuring of J&K Pollution Control Committee (JK PCC) has been approved by the Government.

Regarding the Non-Functional (Monetary) Scheme (NFS), a committee was constituted to examine its applicability for Gazetted Officers of all wings of the Department. The Committee has submitted a draft NFS proposal, which is under consideration in the Department.

4. I move a cut of ₹100/- in demand No:21 in order to discuss the denial of payment of wages to 72 casual labourers of forest division Kulgam despite having been biometrically registered/uploaded on an online portal of Finance Department as per the Government Order No:126-F of 2016 and the steps to be taken on this account.

Reply: In Special Forest Division, Kulgam, there are 09 (nine) Casual Labourers working under Head 364 – Wages (Outsourcing) and 07 (seven) Casual Labourers working under Head 363 – Outsourcing & Up-keeping, which have been found genuine after conducting a comprehensive audit of Casual Laborers. No such figure of 72 Casual Labourers exists in Special Forest Division, Kulgam.

5. I move a cut of ₹100/-in demand No: 21 in order to discuss the delay in conducting of DPC for Class-IV employees in JKFDCL, denial of D.A as per 7th Pay Commission and status of merger of JKFDCL with Forest Department.

Reply: The proposal for re-constitution of the DPC has already been placed before the Board of Directors and is under process.

The implementation of 7th Central Pay Commission recommendations has not been adopted by the Corporation in view of financial health of the Corporation. As of now there is no proposal regarding merger of J&K FDCL with Forest Department under consideration of the Government.

Mr. Surjeet Singh Slathia, Hon'ble MLA to move the following Cut Motions:-

1. I move a cut of Rs.100/- in Demand No. 21 in order to discuss the reasons for delay in issuance of NOCs by the Forest Department for ongoing road construction works, and the delay in other pending forest clearances for developmental projects in Samba Assembly Constituency."

Reply:

The proposals have been processed strictly as per timeline prescribed in the Van Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan Adhiniyam 1980.

The detail of the forest clearance cases in Samba Assembly Constituency is given in the **Annexure-A**. Out of 05 cases 04 are pending with the User Agencies for reply on Parivesh Portal and one (01) is under process at DFO level.

2. I move a cut of Rs.100/- in Demand No. 21 in order to discuss the details of funds spent by the Forest Department in Samba Assembly Constituency for plantation during the last financial year.

Reply: An amount of Rs. 107.01 lacs have been spent for plantation in Samba Assembly Constituency during the last financial year.

3. I move a cut of Rs.100/- in Demand No. 21 in order to discuss the measures to mitigate crop damage due to monkey menace in Samba Assembly Constituency:

Reply: Monkey (Rhesus macaque) has been removed from the list of protected wild animals as per following an amendment to the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 (as amended in 2022).

The following measures are being taken to protect the crop and control monkey menace:-

a. Promotion of alternate Crops/ fruit crops:-

In the Monkey menace infested areas the farmers are encouraged to grow crops and fruit crops which monkeys usually do not harm. To mitigate the impact of this menace, the Department of Agriculture is promoting crop diversification by encouraging the cultivation of crops that are less preferred by monkeys. These include aromatic and medicinal plants such

as lemongrass, palmarosa, mint, tulsi, ashwagandha and aloe vera; spices like turmeric, ginger, garlic and chilli; and millets such as finger millet and barnyard millet and fruits like citrus lime, Aonia, Alovera, Keronda Dragon fruit etc. These crops not only reduce vulnerability to wildlife damage but also provide better income opportunities due to their commercial and niche value.

b. Solar fencing:

50% assistance (Max up 1.0 lacs/Ha) is being provided to the farmers for solar fencing under JKCIP scheme.

c. Monkey scare/Repeller guns:

These are promoted in orchard areas to reduce the impact of monkey menace.

d. Promoting fruit plant plantation in forest areas so that monkeys do not enter agriculture/horticulture areas.

e. Awareness generation among the people by the Forest Department not to feed them so that their population and proximity to the population can be controlled.

Mr. Sajad Gani Lone, Hon'ble MLA to move the following Cut Motions:-

1. I move a cut of Rs.100/- in Demand No. 21 in order to discuss the reasons for non-induction of local officers into the Indian Forest Service, indicating the vacancies in the promotion quota of the said service.

Reply: Induction of State Forest Service officers into the Indian Forest Service (IFS) is governed by the IFS (Appointment by Promotion) Regulations, 1966 and is carried out by the Central Government. In the case of J&K, the induction process has remained stalled since 2013 due to prolonged litigation regarding the constitution of a valid “State Forest Service”.

The Hon’ble Division Bench have finally settled the matter vide judgment dated 21.11.2024. The proposal with the approval of the Competent Authority has been forwarded to the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEF&CC), Government of India for Constitution of State Forest Service. Upon approval and notification of the State Forest Service, the process for determination and filling up of promotion quota vacancies in IFS will be initiated.

At present, no promotion vacancies have been determined for J&K beyond Select Year 2012, due to the aforesaid legal and procedural constraints.

2. I move a cut of Rs.100/- in Demand No. 21 in order to discuss the number of incidents of human-animal conflict reported during last five years, along with the details of compensation provided to victim families.

Reply:- The Department of Wildlife Protection, J&K has taken various measures to prevent human-wildlife conflict incidents in the Wildlife Protected Areas as well as outside Protected areas. The year-wise number of incidents of human – animal conflict along with the compensation paid to the victim families as detailed below:

Year	No. of cases		Total compensation paid (Rs. in lakhs)	
	Death	Injury	Death	Injury
2020-21	9	110	22.150	82.240
2021-22	14	162	42.000	88.960
2022-23	15	80	60.000	70.605
2023-24	16	124	46.500	74.520
2024-25	17	214	72.582	132.300

3. I move a cut of Rs.100/- in Demand No. 21 in order to discuss the reasons for delay in forest clearances for development projects, along with district-wise details of the number of such clearances pending with the department at different levels.

Reply:

With the implementation of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam 1980 in the UT of J&K, **1756** forest clearance proposals received in-principle approval (involving forest area of **3187.07 Ha**), out of these, stage-II approval for **688** proposals (involving forest area **825.04 Ha**) were accorded by the competent authority. The proposals were processed within the timeline prescribed in Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam 1980.

626 proposals are under process for Stage-I clearance. The district wise details of such proposal is as follows:-

S. No.	District Name	Proposal under consideration at the level of:				Rejected	User Agency/ Project Proponent	Delisted	Total
		State Govt.	Nodal Officer	Divisional Forest Officer	Member Secretary				
1	Anantnag	5	0	0	0	0	1	28	34
2	Bandipora	0	0	1	1	0	0	6	8
3	Baramulla	0	1	6	0	0	4	36	47
4	Budgam	0	0	1	0	0	1	12	14
5	Doda	0	0	3	0	2	7	70	82
6	Ganderbal	0	0	1	0	1	2	11	15
7	Jammu	1	1	8	0	0	2	23	35
8	Kathua	0	0	5	0	1	1	35	42
9	Kishtwar	0	0	1	0	0	7	14	22
10	Kulgam	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	5
11	Kupwara	3	0	2	0	0	4	48	57
12	Poonch	0	1	2	0	0	4	34	41
13	Pulwama	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	3
14	Rajouri	4	0	1	0	0	11	17	33
15	Ramban	0	1	4	1	0	7	42	55

16	Reasi	1	1	3	0	0	4	31	40
17	Samba	0	0	5	0	0	2	12	19
18	Shopian	0	0	2	0	1	0	6	9
19	Srinagar	0	0	2	1	0	0	12	15
20	Udhampur	0	0	1	0	0	4	45	50
Total		14	5	48	3	5	62	489*	626
*Note: The 489 proposals were delisted due to non-response by the user agencies.									

4. I move a cut of Rs.100/- in Demand No. 21 in order to discuss the reasons for reduction in extraction capacity of C and D class cardholders of the State Forest Corporation.

Reply:

- The revision of extraction capacity limits of contractors, including C & D Class Cardholders, has been undertaken by the Management of Jammu & Kashmir Forest Development Corporation Limited (erstwhile State Forest Corporation).
- It is submitted that the eligibility criteria and extraction limits for participation in the tendering process across all classes of contractors is a continuous and dynamic process. The same has been reviewed periodically in the years **2014, 2019 and 2021** by the Management of the Corporation in view of operational and financial considerations.
- The limits were again revisited vide **Management Decision No. 03 of 2024 dated 03.12.2024**, in the larger interest of the Organization. Subsequently, in compliance with directions of the Hon'ble Court, the matter was further reviewed vide **Management Decision No. 01 of 2025 dated 03.02.2025**. It is pertinent to clarify that the review was undertaken **for all classes of contractors, namely A, B, C, D and Small Contractors**, and was not confined to C & D class alone.
- The decision to rationalize extraction capacity limits was taken after detailed deliberations by the Management, keeping in view the following operational and administrative factors:
 1. Timber was lying at Transit Depots for longer duration as pointed by PCCF (HoFF), J&K Forest Department, which is causing deterioration of the timber.
 2. Inability of Class D/ Small Contractors for timely completion of the extraction work due to shortage of money.

3. To bring parity of the limits upto which works can be allotted to the contractors in JKFDCL vis-a-vis the limits of J&K Public Works department.
4. To fix the eligibility limit compatible in parallel with the financial capability and resourcefulness of the contractors for safe and quick delivery of stocks.
5. Availability of marking in compartments for extraction had decline.
6. The issue raised by A & B class contractors regarding inability in taking part in e- tendering in most of the cases owing to availability of less marking in the compartment vis- a vis entitlement.
7. To have larger participation and healthy competition in the tendering process.

5. I move a cut of Rs.100/- in Demand No. 21 in order to discuss the district-wise claims accepted and rejected under the Forest Rights Act-2006.

Reply:

The district wise claims accepted and rejected under the Forest Rights Act, 2006 is given as under: -

<i>S.No.</i>	<i>Name of the District</i>	<i>Claim Accepted</i>	<i>Claim Rejected</i>
1	Jammu	44	0
2	Kathua	42	1518
3	Udhampur	14	30
4	Samba	5	72
5	Doda	51	1744
6	Ramban	10	1276
7	Kishtwar	273	582
8	Rajouri	2852	13590
9	Reasi	2	576
10	Poonch	2054	2956
11	Budgam	181	3884
12	Bandipora	50	169
13	Ganderbal	5	500
14	Kupwara	15	5903
15	Baramulla	2	742
16	Anantnag	246	3286
17	Shopian	223	1370
18	Kulgam	7	1398

19	Pulwama	21	302
20	Srinagar	0	0
Total		6097	39898

Mr. Balwant Singh Mankotia, Hon'ble MLA to move the following Cut Motions

1. I move a cut of Rs.100/- in Demand No. 21 in order to discuss the desirability for conducting proper forest demarcation in the presence of senior Revenue officials in each and every village of Jammu & Kashmir to avoid disputes and ensure transparency.

Reply: The exercise of Survey and demarcation of forest area is being carried out as per the demarcation records and maps associated. Demarcation works are undertaken jointly in coordination with Revenue Department wherever required, particularly in areas involving disputes or public representations. In sensitive and contentious cases, joint demarcation teams comprising officers/ officials from Forest (Territorial & Demarcation) and Revenue Departments are constituted to ensure transparency and accuracy.

2. I move a cut of Rs.100/- in Demand No. 21 in order to discuss the reasons for delay in issuance of NOCs by the Forest Department for Pattangarh road construction works even after deposit of forest compensation, as also the reasons of delay in other pending forest clearances for developmental projects in Assembly Constituency Chenani.

Reply: In principal approval for use of forest land for the project namely “Upgradation of various roads in Udhampur District under Capex Budget 2023-24. Construction of Road under PMGSY last point Talana Kunaa to Chenani Pattangarh Road (Phase -1)” was accorded by the Regional Office, MoEF&CC, Chandigarh on 19.03.2025. The proposal is currently with User Agency for payment and compliance report.

The status of the other forest clearance proposals in Chenani Constituency is given in the **Annexure-A**.

3. I move a cut of Rs.100/- in Demand No. 21 in order to discuss the details of action taken by the Pollution Control authorities against individuals/companies causing noise pollution in the UT of J&K during the last two years.

Reply: Under the Noise Pollution (Regulation and Control) Rules, 2000, vide SO. 30 dated 2 February 2021, the Government has authorized the respective District Magistrates, Senior Superintendents of Police, Officers not below the rank of the Deputy Superintendents of Police and other officers of concerned Local Bodies within their jurisdictions, to ensure that the existing noise levels do not exceed the ambient air quality standards. J&K Pollution Control Committee has issued directions to all the Deputy

Commissioners of the UT of Jammu and Kashmir, for ensuring compliance with environmental standards pertaining to Noise Pollution vide communication dated 02-12-2025.

Further, based on complaints received directions for closure are issued to noise causing units from time to time. Details are as follows:

S. No.	Type of unit	Year	
		2024	2025
1.	Saw Mills (Wood based industries)	03	01
2.	Rice husking mills/Flour Mills	01	03
3.	Fabrication units	01	01
4.	DG sets	01	04
5.	Furniture works	01	01
6.	Joinery Mills	01	02

4. I move a cut of Rs.100/- in Demand No. 21 in order to discuss the details of forest areas damaged due to fires during the last two years and the steps taken/being taken by the department for prevention and control of forest fires.

Reply: Various measures have been taken by the Government to prevent and control forest fire related incidents in a time bound and effective manner. Some of the measures are summarized as under:

- Establishing fire lines (clear strips) in forests to prevent the spread of fire by creating physical barriers,
- Educating local communities, villagers, and forest dependent populations about fire prevention and safe practices
- Receipt of real time fire alert from the forest survey of India and immediate action by field staff.
- Periodic controlled burning of dry grass and forest litter to reduce potential fuel load.
- Mock drill of field staff and community members,
- Coordination with other agencies. The detail of Forest areas damaged due to fires in the last two years is enclosed as ***Annexure "C"***

5. I move a cut of Rs.100/- in Demand No. 21 in order to discuss the desirability for renovation/repair of forest huts at Patnitop and other areas of Assembly Constituency Chenani, indicating the present status of these huts.

Reply: One Inspection Hut (within Chenani Constituency) and One Forest Rest House (within Ramban constituency), both at Patnitop have been renovated during the year 2024-25 & 2025-26. Both Huts are functional. Additional rooms were constructed in forest rest house Kassal (Patnitop) along with repair/renovation of the said building. Moreover, present status of other rest houses under Assembly Constituency Chenani is as under: -

S. No	Name of Asset/Building	Present Status
1	Forest Inspection Hut, Latti	Good
2	Forest Rest House, Kassal	Good
3	Forest Rest House, Sudhmahdev	Under the possession of CRPF
4	Forest Rest House, Chenani	Presently begin used for the Range Office, Dudu, as the Existing buildings of Range Office Dudu is unsafe

Dr. Devinder Kumar Manyal, Hon'ble MLA to move the following Cut Motions:-

1. I move a cut of Rs.100/- in Demand No. 21 in order to discuss the pay disparity faced by Non-Gazetted Forest Department employees, whose pay and pay-fixation norms remain lower than similarly placed employees of other departments such as VLWs, Patwaris and other Government staff, despite Forest personnel performing arduous and risky duties round-the-clock (24x7), and the steps taken for framing of time-bound roadmap to address the issue of pay parity and rationalisation.

Reply: -

In pursuance of the directions of the Hon'ble High Court of Jammu & Kashmir in SWP No. 177/2016 (MP No. 01), the Department examined the claim of the petitioners regarding pay parity. After due consideration and in consultation with Finance Department the claim was rejected vide Government Order No. 91-JK(FST) of 2023 dated 13.04.2023.

2. I move a cut of Rs.100/- in Demand No. 21 in order to discuss the inordinate delay in granting of promotions of Non-Gazetted Forest Department employees due to irregular convening of Departmental Promotion Committees (DPCs) and resulting in bad impact of this delay on staff morale and departmental efficiency.

Reply:

There is no in-ordinate delay in convening of Departmental Promotion Committees (DPCs) for non-gazetted employees of different wings of Forest Department. During the year 2025, a total of 12 Departmental Promotion Committee meeting were conducted at the UT, Divisional, Divisional and District level, wherein 387 officials have been promoted to the next higher grade.

3. I move a cut of Rs. 100/- in Demand No.21 in order to discuss the inordinate delay in granting promotions to Non-Gazetted employees of the Forest Department, caused by the irregular convening of Departmental Promotion Committees (DPCs), resulting in adverse impact of such delays on staff morale and overall departmental efficiency.

Reply:

There is no in-ordinate delay in convening of Departmental Promotion Committees (DPCs) for non-gazetted employees of different wings of Forest Department. During the year 2025, a total of 12 Departmental Promotion Committee meeting were conducted at the UT, Divisional, Divisional and District level, wherein 387 officials have been promoted to the next higher grade.

4. I move a cut of Rs. 100/- in Demand No.21 in order to discuss that last cadre reorganization of the Forest Department was carried out in 1982, and that no fresh cadre review or recruitment has been undertaken since then, resulting in acute staff shortages and prolonged stagnation.

Reply:-The Forest Department has undertaken re-organization exercises from time to time with the objective of strengthening forest management, improving administrative efficiency, and providing better promotional avenues to the staff so as to keep them motivated and enhance overall service delivery.

The department is continuously referring the vacancies to the recruiting agencies Since, November 2024, the department has filled 112 posts in different wings.

However, recognizing the need to address emerging challenges, staff shortages, and stagnation issues, the Government has sought a comprehensive proposal for re-organization and restructuring of the Department from the PCCF/HoFF, J&K. The proposal, inter alia, is expected to examine the existing cadre structure, assess manpower requirements, and recommend suitable measures for rationalization and upgradation of posts to ensure optimal functioning of the Department.

5. I move a cut of Rs.100/- in Demand No. 21 in order to discuss the acute shortage of frontline field staff in the Forest Department and how this is adversely affecting forest protection, wildlife conservation and anti-smuggling operations, particularly in border areas.

Reply:

The working strength of the Forest Department is 13247 (including gazetted). Further, all the wings of the department work in close coordination to ensure proper implementation of forest protection, wildlife conservation, and anti-smuggling operations and scientific management of forest wealth. Further, the department also takes the help of other department like Revenue, Police for enforcement of these activities, as and when required.

Mr. Shakti Raj Parihar, Hon'ble MLA to move the following Cut Motions:-

1. I move a cut of Rs.100/- in Demand No.21 in order to discuss the transfer of Timber Sale Depots from the Territorial Forest Department to JKFDCL and its impact on local timber supply, livelihood of associated workers, and availability of timber for the general public.

Reply: So far extraction of timber is concerned, before the creation of State Forest Corporation (Now J&K Forest Development Corporation Limited), the extraction operations were carried out by the lessees under the supervision of the Forest Department. However, to achieve the specific objectives viz, to institutionalize and professionalize the extraction, handling and sale of timber as a commercial activity, thereby enabling systematic revenue generation for the government through a dedicated corporate mechanism, the J&K State Forest Corporation (Now J&K Forest Development Corporation Limited) was created. In essence, the Corporation acts as Government's commercial arm for carrying out the sustainable and scientific exploitation of forest resources while ensuring timber supply to the local population. The territorial wing of the Forest Department under the J&K Forest Notice has supplied 7,51,950 Cft of timber upto January, 2026 and J&K FDCL has provided 1563571 Cft of Timber through its 211 CTSDs to the bonafide beneficiaries and presently 622983 cft is still available in these Depots for sale.

2. I move a cut of Rs.100/- in Demand No.21 in order to discuss the non-Implementation of the Hon'ble High Court/CAT judgement passed on 31 December 2024 in favor of petitioner Mohinder Singh regarding reappointment of 14 candidates with service benefits and promotion of Forest Protection Guards dismissed in the year 2003.

Reply: The department is assailing the judgement before the next higher forum as per sanction accorded by the Department of Law, Justice & Parliamentary Affairs in this regard.

3. I move a cut of Rs.100/- in Demand No.21 in order to discuss the proposed reorganization of the Territorial Forest Department and its likely impact on field units, forest management and public service delivery.

Reply: No proposal for reorganization of the Territorial wing of the Forest Department is currently under examination in the department.

4. I move a cut of Rs.100/- in Demand No. 21 in order to discuss the measures for wildlife protection and mitigation of increasing human-wildlife conflict in Bhaderwah, Doda, and Ramban regions.

Reply: The Department of Wildlife Protection is actively managing human–wildlife conflict in the Bhaderwah, Doda and Ramban regions through a coordinated response system. Dedicated wildlife response teams are deployed promptly to address conflict situations, ensuring protection of human life and property while safeguarding wild animals as per established protocols. Preventive measures such as installation of capture cages at vulnerable locations, rescue and relocation operations and coordinated field action with allied agencies are regularly undertaken. Public awareness remains a key component, with Do's and Don'ts widely disseminated through print, electronic and social media, alongside awareness and training programmes in vulnerable areas to promote precautionary behavior and community participation.

The Department also undertakes habitat management interventions and ensures timely relief and compensation to victims of wildlife incidents as per prescribed norms. During the last five years, 553 awareness programmes covering 6,923 participants have been conducted. Ex-gratia assistance amounting to ₹40.50 lakh in death cases and ₹134.054 lakh in injury cases has been disbursed during last five years. Further, eight (08) rescue control rooms have been established in these areas to ensure prompt response, rescue operations and effective mitigation of conflict situations.

5. I move a cut of Rs.100/- in Demand No.21 in order to discuss the details on the creation of Forest Huts in Jammu Region, including area-wise locations, estimated costs and present status.

Reply: The details are given at **Annexure-A**.

Mr. Ranbir Singh Pathania, Hon'ble MLA to move the following Cut Motions:

1. I move a cut of Rs.100/- in Demand No. 21 in order to discuss the serious pay anomalies and service-condition disparities affecting frontline forest staff in J&K Indicating the status of proposal for revision of pay level of Forest Guards and Foresters making them at par with Patwaris and Junior Assistants as also the need for granting of 21% day's additional salary and risk allowance considering night duties and life risk and reasons for non-recognition under technical category.

Reply: The demands put forth, including removal of pay anomaly, grant of Risk Allowance, and sanction of 2½ days' extra salary in respect of officials of the J&K Forest Department, have been duly considered by the Government from time to time and also taken up with the Finance Department but have not been found justified.

2. I move a cut of Rs.100/- in Demand No. 21 in order to discuss the total forest land encroached in J&K and retrieval action taken indicating the location-wise details of encroachments with special reference to Patnitop, Gulmarg and tourist zones, List of influential encroachers, if any and steps taken to stop encroachment of forest land in future,

Reply:

<p>a). Location-wise details of encroachments with special reference to Patnitop, Gulmarg and tourist zones.</p>	<p>It is submitted that in the Patnitop area, Forest land measuring 0.4546 hectares is under encroachment.</p> <p>In respect of the Gulmarg Tourist Zone, no case of encroachment on Forest land has been reported.</p> <p>The total encroachment of Forest land in the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir has been recorded as 19,482.94 hectares. The encroachment cases have been duly recorded, and appropriate action has been initiated under the relevant provisions of the Forest Act and the rules in force.</p>
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b. List of influential encroachers, if any	List enclosed as Annexure-A
c. Time-bound plan to achieve zero encroached forest land.	The Forest Department follows a continuous enforcement and monitoring mechanism, which includes periodic field inspections and demarcation, initiation of eviction proceedings strictly in accordance with law, and strengthening of protection measures and surveillance. The objective of preventing and minimizing encroachments remains an ongoing priority, to be pursued in accordance with due legal process.

3. I move a cut of Rs.100/- in Demand No. 21 in order to discuss the illegal saw mills, crushers operating and EC approvals issued in forest proximity areas Indicating the number of illegal saw mills operating in violation of Supreme Court directions (T.N. Government case), details of ECs granted to crushers/tar units with scientific basis and also the Stone crushers operating near forest boundaries in Udhampur district and regulatory/corrective steps being taken in this regard.

Reply: The operation of saw mills is regulated strictly in accordance with the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in the T.N. Godavarman Thirumulpad case and the rules / guidelines issued by the Government from time to time. Periodic inspections and verification exercises are conducted by the Forest Department. Saw mills found operating without valid licenses or in violation of prescribed norms are proceeded against as per law.

4. I move a cut of Rs.100/- in Demand No. 21 in order to discuss the reasons of deteriorating air quality in Jammu, Srinagar and other tourist destinations and also indicating the Last five years' AQI data for Jammu, Srinagar, Gulmarg, Pahalgam, Sonamarg, Patnitop and Shri Mata Vaishno Devi axis alongwith the district-wise number of functional real-time AQI monitoring and time-bound Inter-departmental action plan to prevent severe pollution crisis.

Reply: Air Quality Index is classified as follows :

0-50	Normal
51-100	Satisfactory
101-200	Moderate

201-300	Poor
301-400	Very Poor
401-500	Severe

The average annual AQI recorded at locations below, is as follows:-

Places	Annual AQI				
	2022	2023	(2024)	(2025)	2026
Jammu	144	91	99.69	89.95	125.21
Srinagar	93	99	102.61	94.75	107.62
Gulmarg	NA	62	69	54.75	NA
Pahalgam	NA	74	79	64	NA
Sonamarg	NA	85	75	61.83	NA
Patnitop	42	NA	NA	46.95	34
Shri Mata Vaishno Devi	62.70	52.98	63.03	64.51	NA

There are three (03) Continuous Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Stations (CAAQMS) currently operational in the UT of J&K viz two in District Srinagar and One in District Pulwama. Four Sensor based Real-time Air Quality monitoring stations in Samba, Kathua, Pulwama and Anantnag District are proposed to be set up in the year 2026-2027.

Directions under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 are issued to various stakeholders/industries, for adherence to various Environmental Laws. J&K PCC has issued directions for closure of 573 defaulting industrial units during 2025-2026 in Jammu and Kashmir.

5. I move a cut of Rs.100/- in Demand No. 21 in order to discuss the ecological degradation and human-wildlife conflict arising due to forest loss, including:
 - a) Scientific assessment of ecosystem damage due to deforestation and mining
 - b) Action plan to address monkey menace and wildlife conflict.
 - c) Utilisation of capital outlay under Soil & Water Conservation and Ecology.

Reply:

a) Scientific assessment of ecosystem damage due to deforestation and mining.	No deforestation is reported in J&K as per the India State of Forest Report (ISFR) 2023; instead forest cover in J&K has increased by 73.63 sq. km compared to India State of Forest Report (ISFR) 2021		
b) Action plan to address monkey menace and wildlife conflict.	<p>Common monkey or the Rhesus Macaque, has been excluded from the Schedule of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1978 (as amended in 2022) and is no longer classified as a “scheduled animal”. Consequently, the role of the Wildlife Protection Wing of this Department in addressing the issue of monkey menace is limited only to the awareness campaigns and dissemination of DOs and DON'Ts in this regard.</p> <p>Sustained measures are being undertaken to mitigate the problem by promoting cultivation of non-palatable/monkey-resistant crops such as turmeric, ginger, lemon grass, and boundary plantation of ladyfinger (okra). Farmers are being encouraged to adopt preventive measures including installation of solar fencing, use of monkey deterrent devices, and avoidance of feeding monkeys. Technical guidance is being extended under various ongoing schemes.</p>		
c) Utilization of capital outlay under Soil & water Conservation and Ecology.	Directorate/Wing	Outlay During 2025-26 (Rs. In lakhs)	Expenditure During 2025-26 (Rs. In Lakhs)
	Soil and Water Conservation	1085.81	459.27
	Environment, Ecology & Remote Sensing	407.00	66.42

Mr. Pawan Kumar Gupta, Hon'ble MLA to move the following Cut Motions:-

1. I move a cut of ₹100 in Demand No. 21 to discuss the various wings of the Forest Department of the Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory, their roles, and their specific projects in Udhampur District, benefiting the public in Udhampur.

Reply :

The J&K Forest Department was established in 1891 and has passed through a series of transition as more importance got assigned to conservation and preservation of forest, wildlife and environment. Due to increase in population, urbanization, pace of development, the department faced several challenges, necessitating re-orientation of management objectives, which led to establishment of specialized wings over period of time.

Various specialised wings of the department came into being with the passage of time with a focus on scientific management of forests, management of wildlife habitats and conservation and protection of environment.

Forest Territorial Wing is headed by the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF) who is assisted by Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Central), CCF Working Plan, Research and Training, CCF Projects and Planning, CCF/Nodal Officer, FCA. Besides, three Conservator of Forests are also working in the PCCF Headquarter. At Regional level, two Regional Heads i.e. CCF, Jammu and CCF, Kashmir who are assisted by seven Circle Level Officers i.e. Conservator of Forests. Further, 57 Deputy Conservators of Forests (DCF) are also working below these Conservator level officers. DCF level officers are being assisted by Range/Block and Beat level Forest Officers for ensuring smooth functioning of the Forest Territorial Wing.

Main Functions of the Forest Territorial Wing are:

1. To protect the forests.
2. To enforce various forest related laws.
3. Afforestation and allied activities for ecological restoration.
4. Meeting local and commercial requirements of timber & fodder.

The details of projects of Forest Territorial Wing under implementation in Udhampur District, through Udhampur and Ramnagar Forest Divisions are at Annexure “A”.

Wildlife Protection wing was established in 1982 in Jammu and Kashmir for conservation and protection of wildlife. The wing manages 3 National Parks, 14 Wildlife Sanctuaries, 16 Conservation Reserves and 14 Wetland Conservation Reserves, thus managing about 11.5% of the geographical area of J&K. Further, the wing is assigned the responsibility of conservation, protection and management of wetlands under its control including 04 Ramsar Sites. The measures taken by the wing for conservation of wetlands include desilting, de-weeding, delineation of boundaries, erection of protective bunds and installation of boundary pillars. In Sudh-Mahadev Conservation Reserve falling in District Udhampur, habitat improvement works (7600 grass lips, 40,000 patch sowing and 180 cubic mtr. Dry Rubble Stone Masonry) and survey and documentation of Biodiversity of the reserve have been taken up. Ecotourism activities include repair of eco-trek from Gauri Kund to Gali Top. Further, 225 boundary pillars have been installed for protection of the boundary of the reserve. Besides, control room and rescue center at Tanday Rakh Udhampur has also been repaired/upgraded.

The Social Forestry wing of the Forest Department, started with an externally aided project in 1982, and was established as a separate wing in the year 2004 and is working with the objective of upliftment of socio economic conditions of the rural communities with a special focus on plantation of trees outside the forest areas. The main activities of the wing include establishment of Village Wood Lots, Rehabilitation of Degraded Forest, carry out strip/avenue plantations and farm forestry. In Udhampur District, the Social Forestry Wing has planted and distributed 5,89,000 plants.

The Soil and Water Conservation wing established in 1978 is working with the objectives to conserve & manage the soil and water resources of J&K. The main mandate of the wing is to take up appropriate water conservation measures in and outside forest area for water conservation, impounding of water wherever sites permit to increase ground water recharge and prevent floods.

Directorate of Ecology, Environment and Remote Sensing J&K, which was created in March, 1987, is entrusted with an objective of providing

mass awareness among the people about the importance of clean and green natural environment and the Remote Sensing section performs scientific analysis of natural resources and their importance to humankind through modern technologies and spatial decision support system.

J&K Pollution Control Board (now JK Pollution Control Committee) was created in the year 1987 vide Govt. Order No. 34 of 1987 dated 30-08-1987 in pursuance of sub-section (1) of section 4 of the Water (Prevention & Control) of Pollution Act 1974. The J&K PCC is a Statutory Body entrusted to enforce environmental laws and rules within the territorial jurisdiction of J&K. It is also responsible for proper implementation of the statutes, judicial pronouncements and laws related to environmental protection in J&K.

With the enactment of the J&K Reorganization Act, 2019 (No. 34 of 2019) dt.9/8/2019, the legal status of J&K PCB has changed to Pollution Control Committee (PCC) under the provisions of Sec. 4(4) of Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and Sec. 6 of Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 for the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir vide notification vide no.C-603/J&K PCC/Legal-2021 dt.25th March 2021.

The J&K Forest Research Institute was created in 1990 and was registered in 1995 under Jammu and Kashmir Societies Registration Act. VI of 1998 (1941 A.D). JK FRI is mandated to undertake research in forestry and provide technical assistance to sister wings of the Forest Department.

The J&K Forest protection force was established in 1996 and is the first of its kind in the country. This force is established to assist different wings of the department in enforcing the Forest Laws on the ground and better protection of forest resources of Jammu & Kashmir. There are 23 Gamma Units spread across the UT which work in coordination with all the Territorial Forest Divisions and Wildlife Divisions for the protection of forests and the wildlife.

Jammu and Kashmir Forest Development Corporation undertakes removal and disposal of trees and exploitation of forest resources entrusted to it by the Government. It also undertakes research programmes relating to forest and forest products and render technical advice to Government matters relating to forestry and to manage, maintain and develop such forests as are transferred and entrusted to it

by the Government till these are handed back to the Government and to perform such functions as the Government may require from time to time. As a part of ease-of-doing business reforms, the Corporation has already adopted complete e-tendering of its extraction and transportation operations as well as conducting of auctions through e-auction mode. The Corporation also supplies subsidized timber to AAY and non-AAY consumers through 211 sale depots. The FDCL provides timber to Government Departments for public works at prescribed rates. The Corporation has 13 extraction divisions (7 in Jammu and 6 in Kashmir province), 04 sale divisions.”

2. I move a cut of ₹100 in Demand No. 21 to discuss the shrinking forest areas, which pose a serious threat to the environment and contribute to global warming, along with specific proposals for afforestation and measures to prevent pollution and ecological imbalances.

Reply: As per the India State of Forest Report (ISFR) 2023, forest cover in J&K has increased by 73.63 sq. km compared to India State of Forest Report (ISFR) 2021. The Forest Department has been working on the scientific lines as per the prescriptions of working plan, which are being revised after every 10 years. The details of afforestation carried by the Forest Department in last three years are as under:

Year	Forest Area Treated (in Ha)	No of saplings planted (in lakh)
2022-23	13564	161.04
2023-24	13006	180.42
2024-25	7852	150.18

3. I move a cut of ₹100 in Demand No. 21 to discuss the government's proposals regarding wildlife preservation, the preservation of Surinsar Mansar Lake, forest protection forces, social forestry, and soil conservation, by disclosing the survival rate of plantation drives undertaken by the department, with increased afforestation targets achieved in J&K, particularly in Udhampur West Constituency.

Reply: The Wildlife Wing of the Department implements approved Management Plans focusing on habitat restoration, wetland conservation, biodiversity monitoring and regulation of anthropogenic pressures. Regular

patrolling, anti-poaching operations, and coordinated action with the Forest Protection Force ensure protection and surveillance.

For management of water level in Mansar Lake, a dewatering pump has been installed and for Surinsar Lake, the pump is being installed. The Deer Park near Mansar Lake is being upgraded by construction of tile path for visitors and development of Nature Interpretation Center (NIC).

Further, in Udhampur West Constituency, afforestation targets achieved alongwith survival rate of plantation is submitted as under:

Sr.	Year	Targets Achieved	Survival percentage
1	2023-24	66000	70%
2	2024-25	58475	65%
3	2025-26	42000	Work under progress

4. I move a cut of ₹100 in Demand No. 21 to discuss the regularization of ad-hoc daily wagers or other staff engaged in the Forest Department under various schemes, ensuring their wages is paid in strict compliance with the Minimum Wage Act.

Reply: Wages of Casual laborers are paid strictly in compliance with Minimum Wages Act and for the days they have actually performed duties. Their engagement with the department is regulated as per the provisions of the scheme under which they have been engaged. Besides, the wages are paid strictly as per the guidelines issued by the Finance Department from time to time. There is no proposal for regularization of casual labours.

5. I move a cut of ₹100 in Demand No. 21 to discuss the promotion of Gangera Hills with appropriate recreational facilities and the construction of a guest house for the benefit of the public as well as the departmental staff of the Forest Department.

Reply: For promotion of Gengera Hills development of Gangera Hill city park at Jakhani has already been taken up at a cost of Rs. 30.00 lacs under the

Centrally Sponsored Scheme “Nagar VanYojna”. The work will be completed in the financial years.

Moreover, construction of Guest House at Gangera, has been taken up under CAPEX Budget during 2025-26 with an approved cost of Rs 57.00 lacs. The work has been tendered and will be executed in two years 2025-26 and 2026-27

Mir Mohammad Fayaz, Hon'ble MLA to move the following cut motions:-

1. I move a cut of Rs. 100/- in Demand No. 21 in order to discuss the overall functioning of the Forest Corporation Division, Kupwara and to seek clarification as to whether the said Division is regularly called for review meetings by the District Administration, Kupwara to take stock of its performance, functioning, and the services being provided to them

Reply:

In Kupwara District, the Jammu and Kashmir Forest Development Corporation has one Extraction Division at Zangli. During the year 2025-26, the Zangli Extraction Division J&K FDCL has extracted 2.734 lac cft of timber and supplied 16320 cft of timber to 308 bonafide consumers from 13 CTSDs and rest through auction.

With regard to the specific query, it is submitted that the District Administration, Kupwara, convenes periodic review meetings of various departments and government agencies functioning within the district to monitor developmental activities, public service delivery, and implementation of government schemes. Officers/representatives of JKFDCL are invited to attend such meetings whenever agenda items pertain to supply of timber/firewood, depot functioning, or other Corporation activities within the district.

JKFDCL officials extend full cooperation to the District Administration and furnish requisite information regarding:

- Functioning of Concessional Timber Sale Depots (CTSDs)
- Supply position of Timber
- Issues relating to public grievances, and inter-departmental coordination

It is further submitted that such review meetings are consultative and coordination-oriented in nature and are aimed at ensuring transparency, accountability, and effective service delivery to the public.

The Corporation remains committed to working in close coordination with the District Administration, Kupwara, and other line departments to ensure efficient functioning and timely redressal of public issues.

2. I move a cut of 100 in Demand No. 21 in order to discuss details of beneficiaries who have been provided timber in Kupwara Constituency during the year 2025-26 and the reasons for denial of timber to the local inhabitants/applicants especially AAY ration card holder despite its abundance availability in the forest depots.

Reply:

The Extraction Division J&K FDCL Zangli has supplied 7123 cft of timber to AAY ration card holders including 1626 cft of deodar timber during 2025-2026.

3. I move a Cut of Rs/-100 in demand No 21 in order to discuss the impact on environment due to mining of various minerals in District Kupwara and whether the Environmental impact Assessment studies have been carried out in this regard.

Reply:

Stakeholder department has granted 12 Mining Leases of River Bed Material (RBM) in District Kupwara after securing NoCs of stakeholder Department through single Window System and obtaining of approved Mining Plan, Environmental Clearance issued by the J&K Environment Impact Assessment Authority (JKEIAA) and consent to operate from the J&K Pollution Control Committee.

4. I move a cut of Rs/-100 in demand No 21 in order to discuss the need for development of Satbaran Caves Kalaroos declared as State monumental site.

Reply:-

The Directorate of Archaeology and Museums is responsible for the conservation and development of Satbaran Caves, Kalaroos which has been officially declared as State Protected Monument.

5. I move a Cut of Rs/-100 in demand No 21 in order to discuss the havoc created by use of single use plastic all over J&K in violation of standing guidelines and the steps being taken by the Government to enforce the ban.

Reply:

J&K Government has imposed ban on Single Use Plastic (SUP) vide SRO-231 dt. 26th March 2019. Further, there is also ban on the use of single use plastic water bottles in Govt. Offices/Autonomous Bodies/Universities vide Govt. order No. 356-GAD of 2019 dt. 08-03-2019, to reduce the plastic foot prints in J&K.

The latest brief account of seizures of illegal polythene and SUP done by JKPCC is given as below: -

Year	Polythene		Total	SUP		Total
	Jammu	Kashmir		Jammu	Kashmir	
2019-20	262.36	5.69	268.05	141.68	0.95	142.63
2020-21	192.25	9.46	201.71	7.33	6.23	13.56
2021-22	260.77	13.28	274.05	14.53	1.28	15.81
2022-23	306.75	11.9	318.65	8.35	7.88	16.23
2023-24	120.13	4.31	124.44	12.92	6.72	19.64
2024-25	92.05	6.98	99.03	0.22	1.99	2.21
2025-26 (upto Jan)	101.15	386.09	487.24	19.57	2.40	21.97
Total	1335.46	437.71	1773.17	204.6	27.45	232.05

The compounding under Section 13 of The Jammu & Kashmir Non-Biodegradable Material (Management, Handling & Disposal) Act, 2007, for 2025-2026 is as under:

Year	Jammu	Kashmir	Total
April 2025 to January 2026	Rs.2,76,000/-	Rs. 1,56,830/-	Rs. 4,32,830/-

The following measures have been taken by the Department of Housing and Urban Development for management of plastic waste and implementation on ban on Polythene less than 120 microns and Single Use Plastics

Prohibitions: -

- All the ULBs have issued notifications / orders regarding enforcement of ban on identified Single Use Plastic (SUP) items as per Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016 (as amended). The ban on SUP (less than 120 microns) is enforced on all ULBs

Monitoring and Enforcement Drives: -

- Continuous monitoring and regular inspection drives are being conducted to ensure strict enforcement of the ban. Public notices have been issued from time to time for prohibition of production, stocking, distribution, sale & use of Single Use Plastic and published in print & electronic media for the information of all the concerned.

Imposition of Challans & Fines: -

- Fines are being imposed for any violations with repeated offences inviting heavier penalties. During the year 2025-26, 18639.50 Kg of ban polythene has been seized and a fine of Rs. 26.76 lakh (approx) has been realized.

Behavioral Change (IEC activities and Awareness Campaigns):

- Regular IEC activities are being conducted for awareness in the public for not using single use plastic. The themes of these campaigns are Plastic free rallies, and cleaning of plastic waste from roadsides and households by students/volunteers. Nukad Nataks and street plays have been conducted in various part of the city for wider information of the public regarding ill effects of plastic on the environment.
- Establishment of Kiosks at prominent places of Jammu City where useful information is shared regarding the ill effects of the usage of Plastic. Besides, these Kiosks are also functioning as exchange points for Single-use plastic/ polythene with that of a Cloth/ Jute Bag. The public is encouraged to use a Jute/ Cloth Bag for carrying daily provisions and goods.
- Encouraging Shopkeepers/ departmental store managers to keep Cloth/ Jute bags in their establishments for providing to customers instead of Plastic/ Polythene bags for packaging provisions. Some innovative messages are also displayed on the counters in this context.
- A zero-tolerance approach needs to be adopted to check the menace of Plastic/Single-use plastic & more focus to be given to the Behavior Change Communication (BCC) aspect. In this direction, a comprehensive campaign namely #Byebyeplastic and #Jammuagainstoplastic have been launched in JMC.

Infrastructure:

- Material Recovery Facilities (MRFs) have been / are being constructed in the ULBs for proper disposal Municipal Solid Waste.
- Tie-up have been done by DULBJ with Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) agencies for lifting of Plastic Waste under EPR compliance.
- JMC has signed an MOU with RUDA (Regional & Urban Development agency) dated 28/09/2019 followed by addendum dated 08/11/2021 for developing dry waste collection centre (Swachhta Kendra) of 05 TPD
- JMC has also signed MOU with CEE (Centre for Environmental Educational) dated 04th of May 2022 for developing plastic recycling cum product development centre of 05 TPD for a period of 10 years from the date of execution at Bandurakh. CEE & RUDA (Regional & Urban Development Agency) have further signed MOU for jointly developing the project. The plant is operational since April, 2025.

Furthermore, under the Department of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, the issue of single-use plastic has been taken up on priority by the Offices of Assistant Commissioner Panchayats with clear directions to all BDOs and Panchayats to implement and monitor the plastic ban in rural areas of J&K, particularly in Panchayat offices, Gram Sabha meetings public functions.

IEC and awareness drives are being conducted at village level: and Panchayats have been instructed to pass Gram Sabha resolutions discouraging its use. In coordination with the District Administration and enforcement agencies inspections of rural markets and public places are carried out.

Besides, the "Swachhta Green Leaf Rating" initiative has been launched by the Directorate in Pahalgam on December 11, 2023 with the objective to improve sanitation, hygiene, and waste management in the hospitality sector (hotels, homestays, resorts). Facilities are rated from 1 to 5 "leaves" based on compliance with solid liquid waste management. This initiative aims to promote plastic-free practices, incentivize sustainable waste management, and encourage local stakeholders-including commercial establishments and community institutions-to adopt eco-friendly alternatives. The rating system is being progressively expanded to rural tourist hotspots.

In order to ensure effective on-ground plastic waste management, Plastic Waste Management Units have been established in almost every block. These units facilitate systematic collection, segregation, and scientific processing of Plastic waste, thereby reducing environmental pollution and ensuring compliance with Plastic Waste Management rules.

Mr. Shabir Ahmad Kullay, Hon'ble MLA to move the following Cut Motions:-

1. I move a cut of Rs.100/- in Demand No.21 in order to discuss the urgent need for effective soil and water conservation measures in forest and ecologically sensitive areas of Jammu and Kashmir, as increasing soil erosion, land degradation and depletion of water resources are adversely affecting agriculture livelihoods and ecological stability and the need to strengthen conservation programmes and ensure proper implementation of soil and water conservation schemes.

Reply:

The J&K being a hilly territory, around two-third of the land is affected by one or the other form of erosion, of which nearly 30% is under severe to very severe erosion. Therefore, construction of Dry Rubble Stone Masonry (DRSM), crate works, contour trenches, water harvesting pits/trenches, ponds, and vegetative structures are proposed, as per the site requirements, in most afforestation works undertaken by the Forest Department.

Key initiatives of the Soil & Water Conservation wing of Forest Department include watershed development through contour bunding, terracing, check dams, and afforestation to reduce soil erosion. Emphasis is laid on rainwater harvesting, spring rejuvenation, and treatment of degraded catchments. Community participation and sustainable land-use practices are promoted to improve water availability and ecological balance.

So, it is the urgent need of the hour to attend this menace on priority alongwith the conservation of water which is at present a global problem. To achieve it in a effective manner this department has adopted two major schemes namely Soil & Water Conservation Scheme and D.L.T etc. Drainage Line Treatments Scheme. In the former we go for the plantations at a greater chance of percolation and thus enhancing the water table level. Simultaneously, this type of activities reduces the runoff thereby putting a break on the loss of the top soil.

D.L.T is a scheme which is broadly and mainly done in the Nallah which use to be compartment boundaries in the forest sector. These activities are crate work, check dams, retaining wall etc. The sole purpose of these activities is to check the flow velocity to enhance percolation and give silts chance to deposit rather than to flow with the water. This allows the flow of the silt free water with at lower velocity. These type of activities reduce the silt load thereby enhance the holding capacity of the rivers and this reduce the chance of the floods.

2. I move a cut of Rs.100/- in Demand No.21 in order to discuss the issues relating to protection and sustainable management of forests and wildlife in Jammu and Kashmir, including degradation of forest cover, increasing human-wildlife conflict and lack of adequate field infrastructure and the steps being taken to enhance protection measures and strengthen institutional capacity to safeguard forests and wildlife.

Reply:

The management of forests and wildlife in Jammu & Kashmir (J&K) is a complex challenge, requiring a balance between conserving rich biodiversity and meeting the needs of a growing population. The main focus is on restocking open forests and rehabilitating degraded forests, depending on the level and drivers of degradation. Modernization of departmental functioning and protection of forests has been accorded the highest priority.

For sustainable management of forests and wildlife, areas close to habitation and highly degraded require more intensive interventions such as soil and moisture conservation, fodder development, and plantation of species relevant to local communities. Areas farther from habitation and less degraded may require only minor silvicultural interventions, such as removal of weeds/needles followed by patch sowing/dibbling to assist natural regeneration. Areas near habitations and prone to encroachment are given top priority for securing boundaries through fencing and erection of boundary pillars.

For wildlife protection, various measures have been initiated to improve habitats and control human–wild animal conflict.

To strengthen forest and wildlife protection, infrastructure such as guard huts, check posts, watch towers, and control rooms has been constructed. These facilities enable frontline staff to effectively protect forests, rescue wildlife, manage human–animal conflicts, and respond promptly to forest fires.

3. I move a cut of Rs.100/- in Demand No.21 in order to discuss the growing environmental challenges in Jammu and Kashmir, including pollution. Climate-related impacts and loss of biodiversity and the need to ensure effective implementation of environmental laws, monitoring mechanisms and awareness programmes in order to protect the fragile ecology and environment of the region.

Reply: The department is undertaking large-scale afforestation efforts, such as the *Green Jammu & Kashmir Drive*, to enhance carbon sequestration capacity. The details of afforestation carried by the Forest Department in last three years are as under:

Year	Forest Area Treated (in Ha)	No of saplings planted (in lakh)
2022-23	13564	161.04
2023-24	13006	180.42
2024-25	7852	150.18

J&K PCC is entrusted to enforce environmental laws and rules within the territorial jurisdiction of J&K. For the abatement and control of pollution, J&K PCC enforces the provisions of various Environmental Laws as under :

- i. The Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974.
- ii. The Air (Prevention and control of Pollution) Act, 1981.
- iii. The Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 & various rules notified thereunder.
- iv. Orders issued by the Hon’ble National Green Tribunal / Hon’ble High Court /Hon’ble Supreme Court.

J&K Pollution Control Committee takes legal action against defaulting industries which includes closure of the defaulting unit/s as well as imposition of Environmental Compensation, where violations are persisting.

J&K PCC is also monitoring the water and air quality at various designated locations, as mentioned below, as well as formulates various policies and guidelines.

1. **Water Pollution :-** Industries are regulated under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and they are required to install Effluent Treatment and Disposal System.
 - i. Monitoring of Lakes, Wetlands, Rivers, Ground Water and other Water Bodies under National Water Quality Monitoring Programme (NWMP) at 117 designated locations, is being carried out regularly. Data of sanctioned NWMP Stations is uploaded on Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) Portal as well is available on J&K PCC website.
 - ii. Monitoring of Sewage Treatment Plants, potable water is also being carried out regularly.
 - iii. Clean River campaign is a programme of J&K PCC, being conducted regularly.
- 2 **Air Pollution:** Industries are also regulated under the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 and they are required to install Air Pollution Control Devices.
 - i. J&K PCC is monitoring the Air Quality Monitoring at 45 stations at different locations across Jammu & Kashmir under the National Air Quality Monitoring Programme (NAMP) for PM 10 (particulate matter below 10 micron), PM 2.5 (particulate matter below 2.5 micron), NO₂ and SO₂.
 - ii. Continuous Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Station (CAAQMS) has been installed in Rajbagh, Srinagar, for real time monitoring of ambient air quality.

- iii. Air Quality Monitoring Stations have also been installed in Khrew and Lassipora area of District Pulwama, Khunmoh (Srinagar) and Lasjan area of District Budgam.
- iv. National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) launched by the Government of India, is being implemented in Jammu and Srinagar cities in UT of Jammu & Kashmir, by the respective Municipal Corporations, to reduce the levels of PM 10 and PM2.5 concentrations.
- v. Zig-Zag Technology has been made mandatory for Brick Kilns to control air emissions, as per Notification dated 22nd February, 2022, issued by Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF& CC), Govt of India.
- vi. Environmental guidelines and siting criteria for establishment and operation of stone crushers and Hot mix plants has been revised by Jammu and Kashmir Pollution Control Committee.
- vii. Diesel Generator Sets of 61 KW to 800 KW, are required to install Emissions Control Devices, for minimum 70% reduction of particulate matter.
- viii. Awareness- A total of 660 awareness programme were conducted by J&K PCC including Cleanliness Drivers, drives for seizure of Single Use Plastic, Cloth Bag distribution and plantation drives.
- ix. J&K has also imposed a ban on Single Use Plastic (SUP) vide SRO-231 dt. 26th March 2019. Further, there is also a ban on the use of single use plastic water bottles in Govt. Offices/Autonomous Bodies/Universities vide Govt. order No. 356-GAD of 2019 dt. 08-03-2019, to reduce the plastic foot prints in J&K.

The revision of the State Action Plan on Climate Change (SAPCC) is presently at an advanced draft stage. The revised SAPCC is based on a comprehensive district-level and sector-wise (including forest sector) climate vulnerability assessment. Based on the identified drivers of vulnerability, the SAPCC proposes integrated inter-departmental mitigation strategies and adaptation actions, which also comprise measures for biodiversity conservation.

Mr. Satish Kumar Sharma, Hon'ble MLA to move the following Cut Motions:-

1. I move a cut of Rs 100/- in Demand number no. 21 in order to discuss the urgent need to check and taking of necessary measures for Conservation and utilization of water at Nehru in Bilawar Constituency for public and agricultural use.

Reply:

The water at the said location is being tapped and utilized for agricultural purposes through the existing Nehru Khul. The Nehru Khul has a total length of approximately 1200 m and CCA of about 65 hectares with discharge of 6.5 cusecs. The system is functional and presently catering to irrigation requirements of Dharamkot Panchayat.

2. I move a cut of Rs 100/- in Demand No.21 in order to discuss the need to conserve this rich biodiversity and avoid human wildlife conflict in higher reaches of Billawar Constituency viz Dehota, Chew, Marhoon, Dhanu Parole and Baggan being very rich in Biodiversity and also the urgent need for establishment of Wildlife Sanctuary/Creation of Buffer Zones at these respective places.

Reply:

The areas of Dehota, Chew, Marhoon, Dhanu Parole and Baggan in Billawar Constituency are presently not included in any Wildlife Protected Area.

Declaration of a new Wildlife Sanctuary is a statutory process requiring detailed survey and assessment of bio-geographical and morphological significance, biodiversity richness, habitat viability, and settlement of rights and concessions of local communities before any forest or non-forest land may be proposed for notification as such.

Human-wildlife conflict in the area is presently addressed through Control Rooms established at Ramkot and Thein, with an additional Control Room proposed at Karwanda to further strengthen response and mitigation measures.

Sheikh Khursheed, Hon'ble MLA to move the following Cut Motions:-

1. I move a cut of Rs.100 in Demand No. 21 in order to discuss the details of the policy framework, timelines and concrete steps taken for the regularization of long-serving casual and daily-wage workers engaged in the Wildlife Department. particularly those rendering continuous service for years without job security, fair wages or social protection.

Reply: - At present there is no policy for regularization of casual and daily wage workers, however, a committee has been constituted by the Government vide Government Order No. 384-JK(GAD) of 2025 dated 19.03.2024 to examine such issues. Wages of Casual labourers are paid strictly in compliance with Minimum Wages Act and the guidelines issued by the Finance Department from time to time for the days they actually perform duties/work.

2. I move a cut of Rs.100 in Demand No.21 in order to discuss whether any moratorium or informal ban has been imposed on the issuance of timber sanctions, and to seek details of measures taken by the Government to ensure timely and transparent availability of timber to genuine consumers, especially in rural and forest-adjacent areas of Langate constituency.

Reply: The timber sanctions are issued by the J&K Forest Development Corporation Ltd (FDCL), and timber is allotted to the grantees from the specified Forest Sales Depots on a *first-come, first-served* basis. There is no moratorium on the issuance of timber sanctions from the designated Forest Sales Depots under the administration of FDCL in Langate Constituency.

However, in respect of **Kashmir Forest Notice**, under which trees are sanctioned directly from the forest by the Divisional Forest Officer, no sanctions have been issued from September 2025 onwards due to the reconciliation and verification process that was under progress. The said process has now been completed, and the issuance of sanctions is being resumed. The details of sanctions issued by Langate Forest Division under Kashmir Forest Notice in Langate Constituency in three years including the current financial year are as under:

Year	No. of Trees sanctioned	Volume in Cfts	No. of beneficiaries
2023-24	25	1819	25
2024-25	48	3903	48
2025-26	18	1201	18

Total:	91	6923	91
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3. I move a cut of Rs.100 in Demand No. 21 in order to discuss the failure in establishing a dedicated wildlife Department control room at Langate, despite sharp rise in human-wildlife conflict, thereby endangering human lives, livestock and livelihoods due to delayed response and lack of coordination.

Reply: A dedicated Wildlife Control Room catering to human–wildlife conflict situations in Langate is operational ensuring timely response and coordination. For Langate Constituency, the Department has deployed 03 permanent staff and casual labors exclusively for conflict mitigation, supported with adequate equipment for rescue operations. In addition, a Wildlife Rescue Centre has been established at Kothdajee, Langate, for the rescue, treatment, and rehabilitation of rescued animals, thereby strengthening on-ground response and public safety measures in the area.

4. I move a cut of Rs.100 in Demand No. 21 in order to discuss the reasons for non utilization of funds for development of eco-tourism at Neldori and Reshwari, despite their vast ecological potential, scenic value and capacity to generate sustainable livelihood opportunities for local youth.

Reply: Both Nildori & Reshwari are part of Bungus Eco-Tourism circuit and are priority areas under Ecotourism development by Forest Department. A visitor centre and Forest Hut also has been completed in the circuit & view point near these areas has also been developed.

There are 3 works (02 ongoing works & one New Work) have been taken up under capex Budget 2025-26, for development of Bungus Valley.

1. DEVELOPMENT OF BANGUS AS ECO PARK PHASE I.

The estimated cost of project is 70.00 lakh and against it expenditure to the tune of Rs. 49.69 lakh has been incurred ending January 2026.

2. UPGRADATION/OPERATIONALIZATION OF TREK ROUTE (BANGUS TO LACHER).

The estimated cost of the project is 2.98 lakh and against it expenditure to the tune of Rs. 2.70 lakh has been incurred ending January 2026.

3. DEVELOPMENT OF ECO-TOURISM AT BANGUS, Phase II.

The estimated cost of the project is 15.00 lakh and against it expenditure to the tune of Rs. 5.41 lakh has been incurred ending January 2026.

5. I move a cut of Rs.100 in Demand No.21 in order to discuss the reasons for encroachment of land at Hydermari Mawar or diverted by the department without prior consultation or consent of the local population, resulting in serious infringement of traditional grazing rights and adversely impacting the socio-economic interests of pastoral communities.

Reply: No forest land has been diverted under the erstwhile J&K Forest Conservation Act, 1997 or the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 in respect of Hydermali Mawar, falling under Compartment No. 22/Mawar (Khudi Block). There is also no recorded case of encroachment in the said compartment.

However, a plantation closure has been established during the year 2022–2023 in Compartment No. 22/Mawar (Khudi Block) by the Social Forestry Department for rehabilitation of degraded forest. The afforestation has been carried out to augment natural regeneration of forests as well as for production of grass, fodder and small wood, which is managed under usufruct-sharing arrangements with the local community.

Mr. Kuldeep Raj Dubey, Hon'ble MLA to move the following Cut Motions:

1. I move a cut of Rs.100/- in Demand No. 21 in order to discuss the desirability for establishment of a separate Arnas (Kanthan) Forest Range in Reasi Assembly Constituency, considering its vast forest cover and administrative sensitivity between Reasi and Dharmari Divisions.

Reply:

Kanthan Block, Headquartered at Arnas, has approximately 48 sq. km forest area. As such, it qualifies administratively to be Forest Block and does not have adequate area on watershed basis to declare as Forest Range.

2. I move a cut of Rs.100/- in Demand No. 21 in order to discuss the anomalous jurisdiction of Panchayat Allya, Pora Kotla, Deyote, and Sangar, of Tehsil Pouni, falling under Forest Range Lamberi, Division Nowshera, District Rajouri, despite being geographically and administratively part of District Reasi and 57-Reasi Assembly Constituency.

Reply:-

Forest Department's administrative units like Division, Range and Block have been based on natural features such as ridges, rivers, 'valleys and watersheds, and are not to be necessarily co-terminus with district/tehsil or constituency boundaries.

Mr. Yudhvair Sethi, Hon'ble MLA to move the following cut motions:-

1. I move a cut of Rs.100/- in Demand No.21 in order to discuss the serious lapses in forest protection, unchecked encroachments in Panchyats of Jammu East, and the steps taken by the department in this regard.

Reply: It is submitted that encroachments are dealt as per the law and are regularly monitored through field inspections and verification exercises. The cases are recorded and appropriate actions are initiated under the relevant provisions of the Indian Forest Act, 1927 and rules in force without any discrimination. As per the available records, against a total encroached area of 1080 Kanals and 13 Marlas in the constituency, the Department has successfully retrieved 264 Kanals of forest land through eviction drives and enforcement measures.

The Department follows a continuous enforcement and monitoring mechanism which includes:

- Periodic field inspections and demarcation.
- Eviction proceedings as per law.
- Strengthening of protection measures and surveillance.
- Coordination with District Administration and law enforcement agencies.

The objective of preventing and minimizing encroachments remains an ongoing priority, subject to due legal process.

2. I move a cut of Rs.100/- in Demand No. 21 in order to discuss the details of encroachment of forest land in Jammu East Assembly Constituency and the steps taken by the department for retrieval of the said encroached land.

Reply:-The Forest Department is actively addressing the issue of forest encroachments through regular surveys, demarcation, and eviction proceedings in accordance with the Indian Forest Act and other applicable laws. In Jammu East Constituency, all identified encroachments have been duly recorded, and action is being taken strictly as per legal procedures.

As per the available records, against a total encroached area of 1080 Kanals and 13 Marlas in the constituency, the Department has successfully retrieved 264 Kanals of forest land through eviction drives and enforcement measures. The remaining cases are at various stages of legal, administrative, and procedural action, including verification, demarcation, and proceedings before competent authorities and Hon'ble courts. The Department remains committed to the protection of forest

land and continues to pursue removal of encroachments in accordance with law. The list of encroachers in Jammu East Constituency is enclosed herewith as **Annexure- A**.

3. I move a cut of Rs.100/- in Demand No.21 in order to discuss the details of staff posted Jammu East Assembly constituency indicating the stay period and vacancy position.

Reply: Staff details with stay positions who are working in the Jammu East Constituency is enclosed as **Annexure-B**.

4. I move a cut of Rs.100/ in Demand No.21 in order to discuss the functioning of the Forest, Ecology & Environment Department.

Reply: The J&K Forest Department was established in 1891 and has passed through a series of transition as more importance got assigned to conservation and preservation of forest, wildlife and environment. Due to increase in population, urbanization, pace of development, the department faced several challenges, necessitating re-orientation of management objectives, which led to establishment of specialized wings over period of time.

Various specialised wings of the department came into being with the passage of time with a focus on scientific management of forests, management of wildlife habitats and conservation and protection of environment.

Forest Territorial Wing is headed by the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF) who is assisted by Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Central), CCF Working Plan, Research and Training, CCF Projects and Planning, CCF/Nodal Officer, FCA. Besides, three Conservator of Forests are also working in the PCCF Headquarter. At Regional level, two Regional Heads i.e. CCF, Jammu and CCF, Kashmir who are assisted by seven Circle Level Officers i.e. Conservator of Forests. Further, 57 Deputy Conservators of Forests (DCF) are also working below these Conservator level officers. DCF level officers are being assisted by Range/Block and Beat level Forest Officers for ensuring smooth functioning of the Forest Territorial Wing.

Main Functions of the Forest Territorial Wing are:

1. To protect the forests.

2. To enforce various forest related laws.
3. Afforestation and allied activities for ecological restoration.
4. Meeting local and commercial requirements of timber & fodder.

Wildlife Protection wing was established in 1982 in Jammu and Kashmir for conservation and protection of wildlife. The wing manages 3 National Parks, 14 Wildlife Sanctuaries, 16 Conservation Reserves and 14 Wetland Conservation Reserves, thus managing about 11.5% of the geographical area of J&K. Further, the wing is assigned the responsibility of conservation, protection and management of wetlands under its control including 04 Ramsar Sites. The measures taken by the wing for conservation of wetlands include desilting, de-weeding, delineation of boundaries, erection of protective bunds and installation of boundary pillars.

The Social Forestry wing of the Forest Department, started with an externally aided project in 1982, and was established as a separate wing in the year 2004 and is working with the objective of upliftment of socio economic conditions of the rural communities with a special focus on plantation of trees outside the forest areas. The main activities of the wing include establishment of Village Wood Lots, Rehabilitation of Degraded Forest, carry out strip/avenue plantations and farm forestry.

The Soil and Water Conservation wing established in 1978 is working with the objectives to conserve & manage the soil and water resources of J&K. The main mandate of the wing is to take up appropriate water conservation measures in and outside forest area for water conservation, impounding of water wherever sites permit to increase ground water recharge and prevent floods.

Directorate of Ecology, Environment and Remote Sensing J&K, which was created in March, 1987, is entrusted with an objective of providing mass awareness among the people about the importance of clean and green natural environment and the Remote Sensing section performs scientific analysis of natural resources and their importance to humankind through modern technologies and spatial decision support system.

J&K Pollution Control Board (**now JK Pollution Control Committee**) was created in the year 1987 vide Govt. Order No. **34 of 1987** dated **30-08-1987** in pursuance of sub-section (1) of section 4 of the Water (Prevention & Control) of Pollution Act 1974. The J&K PCC is a Statutory Body

entrusted to enforce environmental laws and rules within the territorial jurisdiction of J&K. It is also responsible for proper implementation of the statutes, judicial pronouncements and laws related to environmental protection in J&K.

With the enactment of the **J&K Reorganization Act, 2019** (No. 34 of 2019) dt.9/8/2019, the legal status of J&K PCB has changed to **Pollution Control Committee** (PCC) under the provisions of **Sec. 4(4)** of Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and **Sec. 6** of Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 for the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir vide notification vide no.C-603/J&K PCC/Legal-2021dt.25th March 2021.

The J&K Forest Research Institute was created in 1990 and was registered in 1995 under Jammu and Kashmir Societies Registration Act. VI of 1998 (1941 A.D). JK FRI is mandated to undertake research in forestry and provide technical assistance to sister wings of the Forest Department.

The J&K Forest protection force was established in 1996 and is the first of its kind in the country. This force is established to assist different wings of the department in enforcing the Forest Laws on the ground and better protection of forest resources of Jammu & Kashmir. There are 23 Gamma Units spread across the UT which work in coordination with all the Territorial Forest Divisions and Wildlife Divisions for the protection of forests and the wildlife.

Jammu and Kashmir Forest Development Corporation undertakes removal and disposal of trees and exploitation of forest resources entrusted to it by the Government. It also undertakes research programmes relating to forest and forest products and render technical advice to Government matters relating to forestry and to manage, maintain and develop such forests as are transferred and entrusted to it by the Government till these are handed back to the Government and to perform such functions as the Government may require from time to time. As a part of ease-of-doing business reforms, the Corporation has already adopted complete e-tendering of its extraction and transportation operations as well as conducting of auctions through e-auction mode. The Corporation also supplies subsidized timber to AAY and non-AAY consumers through 211 sale depots. The FDCL provides timber to Government Departments for public works at prescribed rates. The Corporation has 13 extraction divisions (7 in Jammu and 6 in Kashmir province), 04 sale divisions.

Mr. Waheed Ur Rehman Para, Hon'ble MLA to move the following cut motions:-

1. I move a cut of Rs.100/-in Demand No. 21 in order to discuss unpaid wages of need based and casual labourers engaged under the Social Forestry Division across Jammu & Kashmir, including District Pulwama indicating the district-wise details of workers with pending wages, duration of arrears, and total outstanding liability together with budget allocations, funds released and required and immediate clearance of all pending wages across districts.

Reply: The wages/renumeration of all such incumbents of this wing of Forest Department are paid in time. Presently, there as (270) such incumbents working in this wing, (120) are paid out from non-plan head and 150 from CAMPA funds. Out of these, (14) incumbents belong to Social Forestry Division, Pulwama and all of them are paid wages timely. Some incumbents had worked as Laborers intermittently as per the need including in Pulwama Division and they were paid for the period they had worked from works heads. **The Division-Wise details of active incumbents are as under: -**

Sr. No.	Social Forestry Division/Office	No. of Workers paid under non-plan	No. of Workers paid under CAMPA
1	Jammu	05	03
2	Kathua	05	06
3	Udhampur	02	00
4	Ramban	18	00
5	Doda	15	00
6	Rajouri	13	42
7	Poonch	09	25
8	Srinagar	11	34
9	Pulwama	08	06
10	Anantnag	20	18
11	Baramulla	05	07
12	Kupwara	03	09
13	Regional Office (Kashmir)	03	00
14	Direction Office	03	00
	Total: -	120	150

2. I move a cut of Rs.100/- in Demand No. 21 in order to discuss the strategic priorities of the Wildlife Department, while allocations emphasize new enclosures and exotic species at Jambu Zoo, what specific funds and conservation roadmap exist for endangered, native species like Hangul and Markhor, particularly habitat restoration in South Kashmir? Whether any proposal exists to establish a zoo or wildlife interpretation centre in South Kashmir, with details of land identification, feasibility studies, budget allocation, and ecological justification.

Reply:

The strategic priorities of the Department of Wildlife Protection, UT of Jammu & Kashmir, are focused on the scientific conservation of native biodiversity through strengthened management of protected areas, habitat restoration, and long-term recovery of threatened species. Conservation actions for indigenous species such as Hangul and Markhor are being implemented strictly in accordance with approved Wildlife Management Plans and species-specific recovery strategies. These include habitat improvement, monitoring of population dynamics, regulation of anthropogenic pressures, and protection of critical corridors. Dedicated conservation interventions are supported through departmental budget provisions, Centrally Sponsored Schemes, and other approved conservation funding mechanisms. In South Kashmir, focused efforts include the operational Conservation Breeding Centre for Hangul at Shikargah (Tral Wildlife Sanctuary), with expansion proposals under consideration, and habitat protection in Hirpora Wildlife Sanctuary for Markhor, along with a proposal for establishment of a Markhor Conservation Breeding Centre submitted to the Central Zoo Authority.

With regard to wildlife education and tourism infrastructure in South Kashmir, the Mini Zoo at Pahalgam is functional and contributes to conservation awareness and regulated visitor engagement, and its expansion proposal is under examination by the competent authority. At present, no separate full-scale zoo is proposed; however, site-specific wildlife interpretation and conservation education facilities are being considered as per the requirement. The Department follows a balanced approach wherein tourism infrastructure is planned only in harmony with conservation objectives, ensuring minimal ecological disturbance and reinforcement of conservation awareness. Scientific management, habitat protection, and long-term sustainability of Kashmir's indigenous wildlife heritage remain the primary objectives in all development and ecotourism initiatives.

Owing to sustained conservation efforts of the Department of Wildlife Protection, UT of J&K, significant achievements have been recorded across key biodiversity indicators. The population of Hangul has increased from 127 individuals recorded during the 2008 census to 323 individuals as per the 2025 census, reflecting the success of focused recovery and habitat management measures. Dachigam National Park has been ranked Number 1 in India in the Management Effectiveness Evaluation Report released by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change in 2025, highlighting excellence in protected area management. The Asian Waterbird Census-2025 conducted in wetlands under the Department's jurisdiction has recorded the highest-ever count of approximately 13.50 lakh waterbirds in the Kashmir region alone, indicating improved wetland health and conservation outcomes. Further, a proposal for the construction of a Nature Interpretation Centre at Hokersar has been submitted to strengthen conservation education and public awareness.

3. I move a cut of Rs.100/- in Demand No. 21 to discuss the need for spending of substantial portion of funds on field based scientific soil treatment instead of soil and water Conservation and also the details of percentage of funds during 2024-25 and 2025-26. The reasons of CAG or third party audit delays duplication under MGNREGA/ PMKSY, or poor maintenance of check dams and contour trenches.

Reply:

The Department is making sufficient allocation on soil treatment and water conservation as per available resources and technical feasibility. The Department also adopts scientific & field based approach for soil treatment including contour plantation, mulching, increasing green cover, strip plantation of agro-forestry along field boundaries to promote and conserve soil moisture. These interventions collectively reduce surface runoff, enhance water infiltration and minimize soil loss. In addition, mechanical interventions such as construction of check dams, retaining walls and water harvesting structures are undertaken to check land degradation. The allocation is made on field assessment and site-specification.

Third-party audit of such works is a concurrent and regular process, undertaken after completion of such works. However, CAG Audit is procedural in nature and is being conducted in a phased manner, compliance reports thereof are submitted within the prescribed timelines. Further, to mention that all the approved works are Geo-tagged and are

physically verified by the District Statistical Evaluation Officer of concerned Districts at the end of every financial year. Therefore, there is no scope of any duplication under any other scheme i.e., MGNREGA / PMKSY,

4. I move a cut of Rs.100/- in Demand No. 21 to discuss soil conservation and disaster mitigation in the ecologically fragile regions of Jammu & Kashmir. Recurring landslides in Ramban, Kishtwar, and Doda, flash floods in the Kashmir Valley, and severe erosion in Chenab and Pir Panjal demand scientific Intervention.

Reply: -

The following activities have been undertaken for improving soil and moisture conditions:

- **Water Harvesting Structures in Forests:** To harvest excess runoff and recharge groundwater aquifers, ponds/water harvesting structures using locally available materials have been constructed, especially in water-stressed areas like the Kandi belt of Jammu and Kashmir regions.
- **RCC Check Dams:** To recharge groundwater aquifers and benefit traditional wells and tanks downstream, small RCC check dams across streams have been constructed.
- **Drainage Line Treatment:** Gullies and streams in forest areas have been treated with DRSM check dams and crate works to prevent soil erosion and conserve water, adopting a ridge-to-valley approach.

S.No.	Year	Major Soil & Moisture activities		
		DRSM (In Cum)	Crates (In Nos)	WHS/ (In Nos) Ponds
1	2020-21	48330	2293	132
2	2021-22	32227	2701	383
3	2022-23	89235	5483	417
4	2023-24	78089	6022	484

5	2024-25	29232	5901	180
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The department is undertaking large-scale afforestation efforts, such as the *Green Jammu & Kashmir Drive*, to reduce run off and prevent soil erosion and landslide. The details of afforestation carried by the Forest Department in last three years are as under:

Year	Forest Area Treated (in Ha)	No of saplings planted (in lakh)
2022-23	13564	161.04
2023-24	13006	180.42
2024-25	7852	150.18

Department of Disaster Management, Relief, Rehabilitation & Construction (DMRRR), re-iterates that the ecologically fragile Himalayan terrain of Jammu & Kashmir is exposed to multiple, interlinked hazards—landslides (including along major highway corridors such as Ramban-Banihal belt, and in districts including Doda and Kishtwar) and flash-floods in upper catchments of the Jhelum/Indus/Chenab/Tawi river systems, which also accelerate soil loss, riverbank erosion and siltation.

Landslide-prone areas are being mapped using GIS and remote sensing at national scale and are available for use by UT/State agencies. Geological Survey of India (GSI), as the nodal agency for landslide studies, has completed National Landslide Susceptibility Mapping (NLSM) on 1:50,000 scale for the landslide-prone hilly/mountainous areas (including Himalayan region) and has also compiled a large landslide inventory using remote sensing and field sources; the outputs are hosted on GSI data/map portals for stakeholder use. In addition, NRSC/ISRO's Disaster Management Support programme provides a geospatial landslide inventory database using high to very high-resolution satellite/aerial data, covering landslide-vulnerable regions.

Under Section 31 of the Disaster Management Act, 2005, every district is required to have a District Disaster Management Plan (DDMP) that includes the areas

vulnerable to different forms of disasters and measures for prevention/mitigation, the DDMP has to be reviewed and updated annually and shared through the concerned websites. Given this statutory design, vulnerability assessment is embedded in the DDMPs rather than being a onetime standalone report.

GSI is also developing a Regional Landslide Forecasting System using rainfall thresholds, numerical weather prediction and observed rainfall, in collaboration with IMD/NCMRWF/NRSC and State Disaster Management Authorities—this provides an evidence-based basis for preparedness triggers and prioritizing slope/soil stabilization on high-risk corridors. J&K.

J&K has also constituted an expert committee for Hazard, Vulnerability and Risk Assessment (HVRA) for the Union territory of Jammu & Kashmir vide G.O. No. 168-JK(GAD) of 2026 Dated 06.02.2026 with the following terms of reference:

- a. To assess multi-hazard risk including seismic, flood, landslide, GLOF, forest fire, etc.
 - b. To demarcate hazard and zonation framework.
 - c. To prepare J&K HVRA Atlas.
 - d. To prioritize sectoral and intervention strategies (short, mid, long-term).
 - e. To integrate HVRA outputs into planning and governance.
 - f. To recommend institutional and operational modalities for sustained HVRA updates.
 - g. To review existing plans and data systems for strengthening governance.
 - h. To submit recommendations on any relevant referred matters.
5. I move a cut of Rs.100/- in Demand No. 21 in order to discuss accountability in capital expenditure on Soil & Water Conservation. In light of CAG observations flagging 394.13 crore as unproductive expenditure, how many of the 369 works reportedly completed in 2025-26 have undergone independent technical quality audits? Kindly provide survival and durability data of crate works in Kandi versus plain areas?

Reply:

Under UT Capex Budget 2025-26, the approved Budget Estimates is ₹ 10.854 Cr and 227 no. of approved works were taken up for execution, out

of which 103 works have been completed so far with an expenditure of ₹ 4.59 Cr.

Under CAMPA Budget 2025-26, 47 no. of works have been completed out of 68 no. of approved works, with an expenditure of ₹ 37.00 lacs up to ending January 2026.

Technical quality audits are conducted by District Statistical Evaluation Officer of concerned Districts after completion of works of the current financial year.

Crate work in Kandi versus plain areas: The department undertakes the Crate work in Kandi as well as plain areas and they are successful.

Also, watershed program has been proposed in the Kandi belt of Jammu / Kathua / Samba in the Capex Budget of the next financial year 2026-27.

The department presents the actual achievement before the audit. Also, it is not a fact that 40% of expenditure occurs in March. Further, the approved works are executed through proper tendering process, thereby ensuring the transparency in utilization of funds.

Mr. Darshan Kumar, Hon'ble MLA to move the following Cut Motions:-

1. I move a cut of Rs. 100/- in Demand No. 21 in order to discuss the incidents of illegal cutting of trees and forest produce in Basohli Constituency, leading to environmental degradation and soil erosion.

Reply:-

Number of incidents of illegal cutting of trees and removal of forest produce in Basohli Constituency in last two years are as under:

S.No	Year	No. of incidents	No. of trees damaged
1.	2024-25	2	13
2.	2025-26	1	1

All the reported incidents of illegal cutting have been dealt with strictly as per the provisions of the Indian Forest Act, 1927.

2. I move a cut of Rs. 100/- in Demand No. 21 in order to discuss the number of permissions granted for cutting of trees, along with full particulars of beneficiaries, including name, parentage, address, location of cutting, and number of trees permitted indicating the number of trees planted by the Forest Department in lieu of cutting, alongwith survival records and plantation details.

Reply:-

No green felling of trees is permitted on forest land in UT of J&K for commercial purposes. However, dry and fallen trees (except Deodar) in forests are issued to concessionists as per availability under Jammu Forest Notice. The details with respect to Basohli Forest Division is enclosed as **Annexure “A”**

Further, the details of plantation done during the year 2024-25 & current year 2025-26 till ending December is enclosed as **Annexure “B”**

3. I move a cut of Rs. 100/- in Demand No. 21 in order to discuss the need for strengthening Soil and Water Conservation works in Basohli Constituency, being a hilly and erosion-prone area facing frequent soil erosion, landslides, and loss of fertile land.

Reply:

The J&K being a hilly territory, around two-third of the land is affected by one or the other form of erosion, of which nearly 30% is under severe to very severe erosion. Therefore, construction of Dry Rubble Stone Masonry (DRSM), crate works, contour trenches, water harvesting pits/trenches, ponds, and vegetative structures are proposed, as per the site requirements, a number of afforestation works are also undertaken by the Forest Department.

The key interventions include Soil and Moisture Conservation (SMC) works such as slope stabilization through DRSM structures, crates, water harvesting structures, and biological measures. These activities collectively enhance ecological stability and strengthen watershed health.

4. I move a cut of Rs. 100/- in Demand No. 21 in order to discuss the ongoing and proposed projects for construction of check dams, retaining walls, drainage channels, and slope stabilization measures to prevent land degradation and protect agricultural land.

Reply:

The department has taken up 02 Nos of DLT works during 2025-26 in Basohli Constituency and stand completed. The Crates, DLT work, shall be proposed for the upcoming financial year 2026-27 to prevent land degradation and soil erosion.

5. I move a cut of Rs. 100/- in Demand No. 21 in order to discuss the steps being taken for water harvesting, irrigation support, and conservation of natural water sources in Basholi constituency, being a crucial for farmers, agricultural sustainability and rural livelihoods.

Reply: -

Regarding irrigation support in Basohli Constituency, it is submitted that the area is largely dependent on natural nallahs and traditional khul irrigation systems for agricultural water requirements.

Beani Nallah serves as a major natural water source feeding important irrigation khuls, such as Kova Khul, Nowshera Khul, and Neali Khul, which sustain agricultural activities in their respective command areas. Besides this, several other local nallah based khul systems namely Draman

Khul, Groudy Khul, Salan Khul, and Sabira Khul- provide irrigation support across different parts of the constituency.

These traditional irrigation sources collectively ensure water availability for cultivation and continue to play a vital role in supporting local farmers in Basohli Constituency.

In respect of water harvesting and conservation of natural water source, the Jal Shakti Department is also undertaking projects for Rejuvenation of Water Bodies under-AMRUT 2.0.

Ms. Devyani Rana, Hon'ble MLA to move the following Cut Motions:-

1. I move a cut of Rs.100/- in Demand No. 21 in order to discuss the growing monkey menace in Nagrota constituency, causing crop damage and threats to public safety, and the need for taking effective measures such as sterilization, relocation, compensation, and preventive interventions.

Reply:- Common monkey or the Rhesus Macaque, has been excluded from the Schedule of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1978 (as amended in 2022) and is no longer classified as a “scheduled animal”. Consequently, the role of the Wildlife Protection Wing of this Department in addressing the issue of monkey menace is limited only to the awareness campaigns and dissemination of DOs and DON'Ts in this regard.

The issue of monkey menace continues to be a matter of concern in certain areas of Nagrota Constituency, particularly in the peri-urban and *Kandi* belts. Approximately 2,200 hectares of agricultural land have reportedly been affected due to crop damage, including fruit crops. At present, there is no provision for compensation for crop losses caused by monkeys.

However, an area measuring 180 Kanals in Jammu District (including Nagrota Constituency) has been proposed for coverage under the JKCIP scheme for installation of solar fencing at 50% subsidy, subject to a maximum ceiling of ₹0.175 lakh per Kanal, to safeguard crops against damage.

Sustained measures are being undertaken to mitigate the problem by promoting cultivation of non-palatable/monkey-resistant crops such as turmeric, ginger, lemon grass, and boundary plantation of ladyfinger (okra). Farmers are being encouraged to adopt preventive measures including installation of solar fencing, use of monkey deterrent devices, and avoidance of feeding monkeys. Technical guidance is being extended under various ongoing schemes.

2. I move a cut of Rs.100/- in Demand No. 21 in order to discuss the inadequate implementation of soil conservation measures in the kandi areas of Nagrota constituency, resulting in severe soil erosion, sand and the steps taken for

construction of check dams, retaining walls, and water harvesting structures to prevent land degradation.

Reply:-

The Department has carried out various works related to soil and moisture conservation in the Kandi areas of Nagrota Constituency including construction of Dry Rubble Stone Masonry (DRSM) check-dams, ponds, crates, crib structures, brushwood check-dams, RCC Check-dams supplemented with plantation of soil-binding plant species like Sisal along with patch-sowing. The details of aforementioned works carried out in Nagrota Constituency during the past three years are enclosed as **Annexure-A**.

Further, farmers are being regularly sensitized by the Agriculture Production Department and encouraged to adopt appropriate agronomic practices to prevent soil erosion and conserve soil health. These practices include contour farming, mulching, cover cropping, green manuring, strip cropping, and application of organic manures. Bio-vegetative measures such as plantation of agro-forestry trees along field boundaries are also being actively promoted to conserve soil moisture and curb soil erosion. These interventions collectively help reduce surface runoff, enhance water infiltration, and minimize soil loss. Mechanical measures such as construction of check dams, retaining walls, and water harvesting structures are also being undertaken to check land degradation. During the financial year 2024-25, subsidy was provided for construction of 06 Rooftop Rainwater Harvesting Tanks, 01 Water Harvesting Tank, and 01 Geo-lined Tank. Further, during 2025-26, subsidy has been extended for construction of 01 Water Harvesting Tank by the Agriculture Production Department.

3. I move a cut of Rs.100/- in Demand No. 21 in order to discuss the neglect of traditional water bodies, ponds, and irrigation khuls in Nagrota constituency, adversely affecting agriculture and groundwater recharge, and the remedial measures being taken by the Government in this regard.

Reply:-

It is reiterated that the Department has carried out various works related to soil and moisture conservation in the Kandi areas of Nagrota Constituency including construction of Dry Rubble Stone Masonry (DRSM) check-dams, ponds, crates, crib structures, brushwood check-dams, RCC Check-dams supplemented with plantation of soil-binding plant species like Sisal along with patch-sowing. The

details of aforementioned works carried out in Nagrota Constituency during the past three years are enclosed as **Annexure-A**.

Moreover, the Nagrota constituency is also served by various lift irrigation schemes, distributaries and khuls of Jal Shakti Department, the break-up along with present status whereof is as under:

S. No.	Irrigation infrastructure	No.	Present Status
1	Lift Irrigation Scheme	7	Functional – 6 Non – Functional – 1*
2	Distributaries	2	Functional
3	Khuls	1	Functional

** The Lift Irrigation Scheme Upper Malpur is presently non-functional. However, the work for restoration of said scheme has been approved under current year's UT Capex Plan and shall be completed by March 2026.*

In addition to this, the Jal Shakti Department annually takes up various restoration works under UT Capex/District Capex/M&R as per approved plan, besides carrying out desilting works annually during the canal closure period in January–February so as restore the canal to its designed capacity and to prepare it to meet the water demands of the forthcoming crop cycle.

4. I move a cut of Rs.100/- in Demand No. 21 in order to discuss the inordinate delay in execution of PWD, PHE, PDD and other developmental works in the Nagrota constituency due to pending clearances from the Forest and Wildlife Departments, and details of the number of such works pending, the reasons for delay in granting approvals, and the steps proposed to expedite the same.

Reply:-

As reported by the CCF/Nodal Officer, FCA, a total of 13 PHE cases falling in Nagrota Constituency have been received on PARIVESH Portal for forest clearance and there are no pending forest clearance cases pertaining to PWD and PDD in Nagrota Constituency. The received proposals have been processed under Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980.

Out of 13 PHE proposals:

05 proposals have been granted final approval;

In 01 Proposal, in-principle approval accorded and compliance uploaded and same is under consideration for grant of Stage-II approval;

In 02 Proposals, in-principle approval accorded and compliance report for Stage-II approval is not uploaded by User Agency (UA); and

In 05 cases, in-principle approval accorded and the cases are pending with the user agency for payment of compensatory levies and submission of compliance report of Stage-I approval conditions.

The list of the 13 proposals is given below:

S.No	Online Proposal No.	Category	Department	Area (Ha.)	Division	Present Status
1	FP/JK/WATER/426755/2023	Retrofitting of WSS Simbal Lehad.	Jal Shakti Department	0.0723	Jammu Forest Division	Final Diversion Order Issued
2	FP/JK/WATER/426756/2023	Retrofitting of WSS Bamyal Gondla.	Jal Shakti Department	0.134	Jammu Forest Division	Final Diversion Order Issued
3	FP/JK/WATER/426761/2023	Retrofitting of WSS Shiba.	Jal Shakti Department	0.257	Jammu Forest Division	Final Diversion Order Issued
4	FP/JK/WATER/426764/2023	Retrofitting of WSS Dhammi.	Jal Shakti Department	0.101	Jammu Forest Division	Pending at UA for Compliance Report
5	FP/JK/WATER/426930/2023	Retrofitting of WSS Narain Nadore.	Jal Shakti Department	1.15	Jammu Forest Division	Pending on UA for Compensatory Levies Payment
6	FP/JK/WATER/426934/2023	Retrofitting of WSS Damuni Jagir.	Jal Shakti Department	0.0302	Jammu Forest Division	Final Diversion Order Issued
7	FP/JK/WATER/427020/2023	Retrofitting of WSS Panjgrain.	Jal Shakti Department	0.154	Jammu Forest Division	Pending at State Secretary for Compliance Review
8	FP/JK/WATER/448873/2023	Retrofitting of WSS Dhammi-II.	Jal Shakti Department	0.231	Jammu Forest Division	Final Diversion Order Issued

9	FP/JK/WATER/458285/2024	Retrofitting of WSS Nagrota.	Jal Shakti Department	0.178	Jammu Forest Division	Pending at UA for Compliance Report
10	FP/JK/WATER/458914/2024	Retrofitting of WSS Shiba-II.	Jal Shakti Department	0.19	Jammu Forest Division	Pending on UA for Compensatory Levies Payment
11	FP/JK/WATER/460208/2024	Retrofitting of WSS Narian Nadore 2.	Jal Shakti Department	0.093	Jammu Forest Division	Pending on UA for Compensatory Levies Payment
12	FP/JK/WATER/513977/2024	Retrofitting of WSS Marh Drabi-II.	Jal Shakti Department	0.146	Jammu Forest Division	Pending on UA for Compensatory Levies Payment
13	FP/JK/WATER/518751/2025	Retrofitting of WSS Dhok Jagir.	Jal Shakti Department	0.1	Jammu Forest Division	Pending on UA for Compensatory Levies Payment

5. I move a cut of Rs.100/- in Demand No. 21 in order to discuss the total funds allocated, released, and utilized under Soil & Water Conservation, Forestry, Wildlife, and Ecology & Environment sectors in Nagrota constituency during the year 2025-26 financial year, along with scheme-wise and work-wise details of expenditures and the physical progress achieved.

Reply:-

The total funds allocated, released, and utilized under Soil & Water Conservation, Forestry, Wildlife, and Ecology & Environment sectors in Nagrota constituency during the year 2025-26 (up to ending January 2026) are given as under:-

6.

7. (₹ in lacs)

Sector	Total Allocation for Nagrota Constituency	Funds Released	Funds Utilized
Soil & Water Conservation	41.58	35.31	22.10
Forest Territorial	68.70	89.79	21.94
Social Forestry	39.38	34.58	19.88
Wildlife	2566.88	2183.66	654.61

Ecology, Environment & Remote Sensing	0.00	0.00	0.00
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The scheme-wise break-up of funds allocation, releases and utilization during 2025-26 is given as under:-

8. (₹ in lakhs)

Scheme	Total Allocation for Nagrota Constituency	Funds Released	Funds Utilized (ending January 2026)
UT Capex	2612.02	2226.24	688.05
CAMPA	88.08	109.17	30.37
CSS	16.44	8.22	0.00

The work-wise details in respect of Nagrota constituency is annexed as **Annexure - “B”**.

Dr. Sunil Bhardwaj, Hon'ble MLA to move the following Cut Motions:

1. I move a cut of Rs.100/- in Demand No. 21 in order to discuss the total population of wild pigs, monkeys and leopards in Ramnagar Constituency and details of damages caused by these animals to standing crops, domestic livestock and human life and the steps taken by the department to prevent further damages by these animals.

Reply:

There is no wildlife protected area falling within Ramnagar Constituency. Moreover, no such population assessment in respect of wild pigs, monkeys and leopards in Ramnagar Constituency has been conducted so far.

2. I move a cut of Rs.100/- in Demand No. 21 in order to discuss the measures taken by the department to check rising population of wild pigs, monkeys and leopards.

Reply: The Wildlife Wing of the Department is actively involved in managing human-animal conflict in these areas. Wildlife teams are deployed from nearest control room established at Tanda Rakh Udhampur as and when required, to manage human animal conflict. Cages are installed at vulnerable points to capture and relocate wild animals posing threat to life and property. Besides, fire crackers are distributed among the villagers for scaring the crop raiding attempt by the wild boars. Awareness drives are conducting for making the villagers/local population aware about preventative measures.

3. I move a cut of Rs.100/- in Demand No. 21 in order to discuss the details of nurseries, Eco-parks, quarantine centre constructed/functional in Ramnagar Constituency.

Reply: The detail of nurseries, Eco-parks, quarantine centre constructed/functional in Ramnagar Constituency is enclosed as **Annexure-A.**

4. I move a cut of Rs.100/- in Demand No. 21 in order to discuss the functioning of Forest Guest Houses constructed in Ramnagar constituency indicating the year of construction and the funds spent on construction/maintenance of these guest houses.

Reply:

Forest Guest Houses constructed in Ramnagar Constituency alongwith year of construction and financial details is enclosed as **Annexure-B**.

Th. Randhir Singh, Hon'ble MLA to move the following Cut Motions:

1. I move a cut of Rs.100/- in Demand No. 21 in order to discuss the failure of the department in preventing forest encroachments and illegal felling in Kalakote-Sunderbani area, indicating the details forest land encroached, cases registered, seizures made, and action taken against violators and officials responsible during the last five years.

Reply:- No fresh case of encroachment has been registered in Kalakote and Sunderbani Ranges. All fresh attempts of encroachment are being foiled as and when noticed in the field. The year wise eviction in these ranges is given below:-

A) SundarbaniRange: -

Year	No. of cases	Area Evicted (in Ha.)
2020-21	14	14.83
2021-22	111	63.645
2022-23	50	23.3425
2023-24	25	9.445
2024-25	5	2.4
2025-26	4	2.1
Total	209	115.7625

B) KalakoteRange : -

Year	No. of cases	Area Evicted (in Ha.)
2020-21	10	3.59
2021-22	45	14.23
2022-23	4	0.53
2023-24	14	4.5
2024-25	13	9.20
2025-26	2	0.35
Total	88	32.4

The year wise illegal felling of trees reported in these ranges along with action taken is given below:

A) Sundarbani Range: -

Year	No. of trees felled	Culprits Booked
2020-21	06	02
2021-22	21	14
2022-23	05	03
2023-24	0	0
2024-25	10	04
2025-26 upto 01/2026	02	01
Total	44	24

B) Kalakote Range: -

Year	No. of trees felled	Culprits Booked
2020-21	10	3.59
2021-22	45	14.23
2022-23	4	0.53
2023-24	14	4.50
2024-25	13	9.20
2025-26 upto 01/2026	2	0.35
Total	88	32.40

The field staff remains vigilant and pro-active to douse any attempt of encroachment or illegal feeling in their respective areas.

2. I move a cut of Rs.100/- in Demand No. 21 in order to discuss the poor implementation of afforestation and plantation programmes in Kalakote-Sunderbani, and indicating the details of plantation undertaken, funds utilized, survival rates, monitoring mechanisms, and responsibility fixed for failure during the last five years.

Reply:-

Afforestation and plantation programmes in Kalakote and Sunderbani Ranges. In Sunderbani Range, 1.78 Lacs plants have been planted under various schemes during last five years w.e.f 2020-21 to 2024-25, the year wise detail is given below:

Year	No. of plants Planted on Nos.	Exp. Incurred for afforestation works (in Lacs)
2020-21	48500	44.07
2021-22	30160	32.42
2022-23	28200	35.71
2023-24	20800	35.91
2024-25	50236	102.12

In Kalakote Range, 1.96 Lacs plants have been planted under various schemes during last five years w.e.f 2020-21 to 2024-25, the year wise detail is given below:

Year	No. of plants Planted on Nos.	Exp. Incurred for afforestation works (in Lacs)
2020-21	27000	6.26
2021-22	3000	0.669
2022-23	81500	18.17
2023-24	46900	9.66
2024-25	37600	7.74

In Sunderbani range, as per inter departmental monitoring evaluation for the year 2022-23, survival rate has been worked out at 60.50%.

In Kalakote range, the survival rate for the year 2022-23 is 24.81% as per 3rd party monitoring report and as per inter departmental monitoring/evaluation for the year 2022-23, survival rate has been worked out at 60.57%.

The matter of fixation of responsibility of officials does not arise as there is no failure on part of officials has been reported so far.

3. I move a cut of Rs.100/- in Demand No. 21 in order to discuss the inadequate forest protection infrastructure in Kalakote-Sunderbani, indicating the details of sanctioned and working Forest Guards vacancies, watch and ward together with the fire incidents provided and funds provided for forest protection during the last five years.

Reply:-

The Sanctioned and working strength of Forest Guards as on date w.r.t Nowshera Forest Division is given below:

Sanctioned strength of Forest Guards	73
Working Strength of Forest Guards	50

The Sanctioned and working strength of Forest Guards as on date w.r.t Rajouri Forest Division is given below:

Sanctioned strength of Forest Guards	142
Working Strength of Forest Guards	67

The year wise Fire incidents along with fund utilized for last five years is given below:

A) Sundarbani Range: -

Year	No. of Fire Incidents	Area Burnt in ha	Funds utilized for Forest fire prevention and control measures (Rupees in lacs)
2020-21	11	18.20	3.45
2021-22	17	45.40	1.26
2022-23	14	19.02	2.603
2023-24	03	1.5	6.421
2024-25	28	42.50	5.468
2025-26	37	39.50	8.09

B) Kalakote Range: -

Year	No. of Fire Incidents	Area Burnt in ha	Funds utilized for Forest fire prevention and control measures (Rupees in lacs)
2020-21	05	6.15	1.15
2021-22	09	6.22	0.42
2022-23	88	22.06	0.91

2023-24	0	0	2.25
2024-25	03	0.55	0.30
2025-26	19	12.803	0.70

4. I move a cut of Rs.100/- in Demand No. 21 in order to discuss the Forest Hust and Ecology parks in Kalakote Sunderbani.

Reply:- In Sunderbani range, two huts have been constructed namely FRH Sundarbani and Inspection Hut Sunderbani by Nowshera Forest Division. Also, One Nagar Van has been established at Kessar Galla over an area of 20 hectares at an allotted cost of Rs 56.46 lacs during 2023-24.

Mr. Mohan Lal Bhagat, Hon'ble MLA to move the following Cut Motions:-

1. I move a cut of Rs.100/- in Demand No. 21 in order to discuss the various projects undertaken by the department under Soil and Water Conservation and their impact on vulnerable areas.

Reply:- The following activities have been undertaken in the Forest Department for improving soil and moisture conditions:

- **Water Harvesting Structures in Forests:** To harvest excess runoff and to recharge groundwater aquifers, ponds/water harvesting structures using locally available materials have been constructed, especially in water-stressed areas like the *Kandi* belt of Jammu and Kashmir regions.
- **RCC Check Dams:** To recharge groundwater aquifers and benefit traditional wells and tanks downstream, small RCC check-dams across streams have been constructed.
- **Drainage Line Treatment:** Gullies and streams in forest areas have been treated with Dry Rubble Stone Masonry (DRSM) check-dams and crate works to prevent soil erosion and conserve water, adopting a ridge-to-valley approach.

S.No.	Year	Major Soil & Moisture activities		
		Dry Rubble Stone Masonry (DRSM) (In Cum)	Crates (In Nos)	Water Harvesting Structures (WHS)/ Ponds (In Nos)
1	2020-21	48330	2293	132
2	2021-22	32227	2701	383
3	2022-23	89235	5483	417
4	2023-24	78089	6022	484
5	2024-25	29232	5901	180

2. I move a cut of Rs.100/- in Demand No. 21 in order to discuss the need for a comprehensive forest fire protection plan and adequate allocation of funds for the Kalidhar Range in Akhnoor constituency.

Reply:-

Various measures have been taken by the Government to prevent and control forest fire related incidences in a time bound and effective manner. Some of the measures are summarized as under:

- a) Establishing fire-lines (clear strips) in forests to prevent the spread of fire by creating physical barriers.
- b) Educating local communities, villagers, and forest-dependent populations about fire prevention and safe practices.
- c) Receipt of real-time fire alerts from the Forest Survey of India and immediate action by field staff.
- d) Periodic controlled burning of dry grass and forest litter to reduce potential fuel load.
- e) Conducting mock drills for field staff and community members.
- f) Coordination with other agencies.

Year Wise Allocation For Kalidhar Range:

2023-24 = 39.845 Lakh

2024-25 = 39.26 Lakh

2025-26= 4.97 Lakh

3. I move a cut of Rs.100/- in Demand No. 21 in order to discuss the measures taken by the department to curb deforestation in the Kalidhar Range.

Reply:- In Kalidhar Range, the department has strengthened forest protection through regular patrolling, naka checking, and surprise inspections in vulnerable areas. Forest offence cases are promptly registered against illegal felling and encroachment, and seizures are made as per rules.

Plantation and Assisted Natural Regeneration works are undertaken in degraded patches to restore forest cover. Soil and moisture conservation measures are also implemented to improve vegetation growth.

Coordination with civil administration and involvement of local communities further support efforts to curb deforestation and protect forest resources in the Range.

4. I move a cut of Rs.100/- in Demand No. 21 in order to discuss the dilapidated condition of the Kalidhar Range Forest Office (IWDP) in Akhnoor and the need for its renovation.

Reply:- The repair and restoration work for IWDP Building in Akhnoor has been proposed in the CAPEX Budget for 2026-2027.

5. I move a cut of Rs.100/- in Demand No. 21 in order to discuss the reasons for conducting of insufficient plantation drives in Akhnoor Assembly Constituency.

Reply:- The department has been actively undertaking sufficient plantation drives and plantation actives in Kalidhar Forest Range under Akhnoor Assembly Constituency through organized campaigns and public participation programmes during 2025-26. Details are as under:

S.No	Plantation Drive	Plants Planted	Plants Distributed	Total
1	JK Green Drive	757	3410	4167
2	Sewa Parv Plantation Drive	188	560	748
3	Van Mahotsav	350	1000	1350
Total				6265

Dr. Rajeev Kumar, Hon'ble MLA to move the following Cut Motions:-

1. I move a cut of Rs. 100/- in Demand No. 21 in order to discuss the proposal regarding regularization of services engaged as Rehbar-I-Janglat in the department.

Reply: The issue is under examination in coordination with various Departments.

Aga Syed Muntazir Mehdi, Hon'ble MLA to move the following Cut Motions:-

1. I move a cut of Rs 100/- in Demand No 21 to discuss whether the Government has reviewed implementation of the Forest Rights Act, 2006, examined claim status and regional disparities among tribal, nomadic, and forest-dwelling communities.

Reply:

The Schedule Tribes and other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 also commonly known as Forest Rights Act, 2006, became applicable to J&K after it became Union Territory in 2019. Claims under the provisions of the Act are received and scrutinized at the level of Gram Sabha. The resolution with respect to the claims is examined by Sub Divisional Level Committee headed by SDM or ADC and finally decided by District Level Committee headed by Deputy Commissioner. Provisions of the Act and rules and guidelines made there under clearly specify the procedure and process for recognition of claims. The respective bodies/committees under the FRA i.e Gram Sabha, Sub Divisional Level Committee and District Level Committee consider and recommend/decide the applications as per laid down procedures and norms. The applications not meeting the required procedures and norms are not considered by these bodies/committees. The acts also provide an inbuilt mechanism for appeal at higher level with final appeal with District Level Committee.

The district-wise total number of claims approved under the Forest Right Act, 2006 across the UT of J&K is given as under:

District	No. of claims approved		Total
	Individual Forest Right (IFR)	Community Forest Right (IFR)	
Bandipora	0	50	50
Budgam	19	162	181
Ganderbal	2	3	5
Baramulla	1	1	2
Kupwara	5	10	15
Anantnag	229	17	246
Pulwama	18	3	21
Kulgam	0	7	7
Shopian	38	185	223
Jammu	0	44	44
Kathua	18	24	42

Udhampur	1	13	14
Samba	0	5	5
Doda	0	51	51
Ramban	6	4	10
Kishwar	0	273	273
Rajouri	10	2842	2852
Reasi	2	0	2
Poonch	1	2053	2054
Total	350	5747	6097

Pursuant to the Government Order No. 1876-JK(GAD) of 2025 dated 12.12.2025, Department of Tribal Affairs is the Nodal Department for implementation of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006, in the Union territory of Jammu & Kashmir and Administrative Secretary, Tribal Affairs Department is the Nodal Officer from the Union territory of Jammu & Kashmir, to coordinate with the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India, for monitoring and reporting of implementation and the progress of initiatives under the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006, covered under Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan (DAJGUA).

2. I move a cut of Rs. 100/-in Demand No 21 to discuss whether the Government has assessed forest-land encroachments across J&K: and what steps are being taken to prevent fresh encroachments, strengthen enforcement, and expedite lawful eviction and restoration.

Reply:

The Forest Department has undertaken a comprehensive assessment of forestland encroachments. A combination of satellite imagery, ground verification, and joint inspections is being used to identify encroachments. Strict measures are in place to prevent fresh encroachments, including enhanced surveillance, demarcation of forest boundaries using CORS technology, strengthening of field enforcement staff, and coordination with district administrations. Lawful eviction and restoration of forest land are carried out as and when required in accordance with statutory provisions and judicial directions.

Wildlife Protection Wing has also undertaken systematic assessment and safeguarding of Wildlife Protected Areas across the Union Territory. The boundaries of all protected areas have been surveyed, digitally delineated

and mapped, and physical demarcation through installation of boundary pillars has been carried out, to a large extent, with reference to existing records. Vulnerable stretches prone to encroachment are being further secured through fencing and strengthened field vigilance. The Department follows a policy of zero tolerance towards encroachments, and continuous monitoring, preventive measures, and coordinated enforcement action are being undertaken to prevent fresh encroachments.

3. I move a cut of Rs. 100/- in Demand No 21 in order to discuss whether the Government has reviewed enforcement gaps, delays in forest-land reclamation, and compliance with statutory and judicial directions and what steps are being taken to strengthen accountability and improve forest governance.

Reply:

The Forest Department has been periodically reviewing enforcement gaps and delays related to forest-land reclamation. It is submitted that the directions issued by Hon'ble courts and statutory authorities are being complied with in a time-bound manner. Accountability mechanisms have been strengthened through regular monitoring, inspections, and reporting systems. Efforts are ongoing to improve forest governance by enhancing transparency, interdepartmental coordination, and use of technology-based monitoring tools.

Wildlife Protection Wing also continuously reviews the enforcement mechanisms to address gaps in protection of wildlife habitats, compliance with statutory and judicial directions. Regular monitoring of protected areas, coordinated patrolling, boundary demarcation, and joint action with Forest, Revenue, and Forest Protection Force authorities are undertaken to prevent encroachments and ensure timely reclamation of wildlife and forest lands wherever required. To strengthen accountability and improve governance, periodic reviews are conducted at field and headquarters levels, legal action is pursued against violations under relevant laws, and strict compliance with court and statutory directives is ensured, supported by technology-based monitoring, capacity building of staff, and enhanced inter-departmental coordination.

4. I move a cut of Rs 100/- in Demand No 21 to discuss whether the Government has assessed rising forest fires and their ecological impact, the preventive, monitoring, and rapid-response mechanisms in place, and the steps proposed

for effective plantation and reforestation through adequate staffing coordination, and community participation.

Reply:

It is submitted that in accordance with the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), Forest Fire Control Stations (Control Rooms) have been established across all Forest Divisions. To ensure real-time coordination, rapid response, and effective multi-agency collaboration during forest fire emergencies. These control rooms operate at both divisional and range levels and function as command and coordination centres throughout the fire season. Staffing of these centres is not limited to the Territorial Forest Department; personnel are deputed from allied wings including the Forest Protection Force, Wildlife Division, Soil Conservation Department, and Social Forestry, thereby enabling integrated decision-making and swift deployment of field resources.

Preventive measures include the creation and maintenance of fire lines through clearing of dry grass and combustible material to prevent rapid escalation of forest fires. Adequate fire-fighting equipment such as fire beaters and blowers has been procured and strategically positioned for immediate use. Routine patrolling of forest compartments is undertaken to detect and prevent fire incidents, while water storage facilities have been developed in fire-prone areas to support fire-fighting operations.

Further, practices such as manual clearing of forest litter, controlled burning of fallen biomass, and regulated grazing are being emphasized to reduce fuel load and limit fire spread. Awareness campaigns and outreach programs are regularly conducted among forest fringe communities to promote fire prevention and preparedness.

Hands-on training sessions and mock drills are organized for frontline forest staff to enhance operational readiness and ensure effective use of fire-fighting equipment. Mechanisms are in place for quick detection and prompt suppression of forest fires, along with arrangements to transport fire-fighting personnel to incident sites in the shortest possible time to minimize damage.

Sd/-

Minister, I/c Forest, Ecology and Environment Department

Under Secretary to the Government
Forest, Ecology and Environment Department

