

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 349
TO BE ANSWERED ON 18.08.2025

Eco Task Force

349*. SHRI DAGGUMALLA PRASADA RAO:

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

- (a) the details regarding the total number of Eco-Task Forces supported by the Government, State/UT-wise;
- (b) the details of the number and type of restoration activities and projects undertaken by such Task Forces along with their physical progress, State/UT-wise;
- (c) the details of the funds allocated and disbursed to each of these Task Forces during the last five years, year-wise; and
- (d) whether the Government proposes to establish additional Task Forces and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI BHUPENDER YADAV)

- (a) to (d). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF THE
LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 349 REGARDING
ECO TASK FORCE BY SHRI DAGGUMALLA PRASADA RAO FOR
REPLY ON 18.08.2025.**

- (a) Eco-Task Forces (ETFs) were raised in 1982 under the aegis of the Ministry of Environment & Forests and the Ministry of Defence, in conjunction with State Governments, for undertaking challenging assignments in ecologically fragile and sensitive areas under the Eco-Development Forces (EDF) Scheme, with the twin objectives of ecological restoration and rehabilitation of ex-servicemen. The scheme is being administered by the National Afforestation and Eco-Development Board (NAEB) of the Ministry since 2007. At present, six ETF Battalions are supported by the Ministry. They are 127 Infantry Battalion (TA) and 130 Infantry Battalion (TA) in Uttarakhand, 128 Infantry Battalion (TA) in Rajasthan, 129 Infantry Battalion (TA) in Jammu & Kashmir, and 134 Infantry Battalion (TA) and 135 Infantry Battalion (TA) in Assam. Details of the 6 battalions may please be seen at **Annexure - I**.
- (b) The ETF battalions undertake afforestation and related activities in degraded and fragile areas with difficult terrain such as, afforestation and pasture development works in the Thar Desert of Rajasthan, checking, controlling, and reversing ecological degradation in the Shivalik Himalayas through afforestation and soil conservation works as being done in Uttarakhand and Jammu & Kashmir and also restoring degraded forests in Assam. These efforts are aimed at addressing environmental challenges in diverse and sensitive regions of the country, with particular emphasis on improving vegetation cover, preventing soil erosion, and restoring degraded areas. ETF Battalions have also adopted effective measures to enhance the capacity and work quality of the ETF by employing new emerging technologies like drip & sprinkler irrigation, bio & vermi-composting in their works. Details of Physical progress of the works undertaken by the ETF may please be seen at **Annexure-II**.
- (c) The details regarding the fund allocated and disbursed to 6 ETF Battalions viz., 127 Inf. Bn. (TA) and 130 Inf. Bn. (TA) in Uttarakhand, 128 Inf. Bn. in Rajasthan, 129 Inf. Bn. in Jammu & Kashmir, 134 Inf. Bn. & 135 Inf. Bn. in Assam during the last five years is at **Annexure-III**.
- (d) At present, there is no proposal to establish additional Eco-Task Forces.

Annexure-I

Annexure referred to in reply of part (a) of the Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 349 regarding 'Eco Task Force' raised by Shri Daggumalla Prasada Rao due for reply on 18.08.2025.

Sl. No.	Name of Battalion	State	Location
1.	127 ETF	Uttarakhand	Tehri Garhwal district
2.	128 ETF	Rajasthan	Jaisalmer district
3.	129 ETF	Jammu & Kashmir	Samba district
4.	130 ETF	Uttarakhand	Pithoragarh district
5.	134 ETF	Assam	Sonitpur district
6.	135 ETF	Assam	Kokrajhar district

Annexure-II

Annexure referred to in reply of part (b) of the Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 349 regarding 'Eco Task Force' raised by Shri Daggumalla Prasada Rao due for reply on 18.08.2025.

Statement showing Physical Achievement of ETF Battalions during 2020-21 to 2024-25 (Continuing ETF Scheme)			127 Inf. Bn, Uttarakhand	128 Inf. Bn, Rajasthan	129 Inf. Bn, J&K	130 Inf. Bn, Uttarakhand	134 Inf. Bn, Assam	135 Inf. Bn, Assam
1.	2020-21	No. of Plants*	4.57	6.00	0.95	4.95	1.71	2.99
		Area in ha.	457	600	160	495	103.64	300
2.	2021-22	No. of Plants*	8.02	7.00	1.13	8.00	4.38	3.34
		Area in ha.	802	600	155	800	211.92	320
3.	2022-23	No. of Plants*	8.02	7.00	1.13	8.00	4.38	3.34
		Area in ha.	802	600	155	800	211.92	320
4.	2023-24	No. of Plants*	4.00	6.00	1.54	4.00	4.72	3.27
		Area in ha.	400	600	157.74	329	242.52	363.66
5.	2024-25	No. of Plants*	4.00	6.00	0.39	4.71	4.78	3.54
		Area in ha.	400	600	47	470	173.75	427.6

***Unit in lakhs**

Annexure-III

Annexure referred to in reply of part (c) of the Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 349 regarding 'Eco Task Force' raised by Shri Daggumalla Prasada Rao due for reply on 18.08.2025.

Details regarding the fund allocated and disbursed to 6 Eco Task Force Battalions during the last five years:

(Amount in Crores)

Battalions	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
127 Infantry Battalion	8.69	7.75	10.87	12.91	9.90
128 Infantry Battalion	15.81	22.55	29.78	21.93	38.60
129 Infantry Battalion	1.56	8.85	6.19	7.80	8.94
130 Infantry Battalion	3.41	10.85	8.16	11.56	19.22
134 Infantry Battalion	4.27	29.98	15.58	1.24	4.19
135 Infantry Battalion	4.25	30.02	9.42	8.90	9.15
Total	38.00	110.00	80.00	64.34	90.00
