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# Govt looks at agroforestry and private forests as tools to decarbonise economy

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NEW DELHI: The government in the Budget on Tuesday expressed the need for faster environmental clearance as part of its larger goal of 'ease of doing business', and also proposed required legislative changes to promote agroforestry and private forestry to increase green cover in the country.

Referring to PARIVESH - a single window portal for all green clearances which was launched in 2018, the finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman while presenting the Budget said, "The scope of this portal will now be expanded to provide information to the applicants. Based on the location of units, information about specific approvals will be provided."

The move will enable application for all green approvals including environmental, forest and wildlife through a single form. It will also help in "tracking of the process through Centralized Processing Centre-Green (CPC-Green)".

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On promoting agroforestry, the finance minister proposed financial support to farmers belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, who want to take up agroforestry.

Promotion of agroforestry through legislative changes and financial support is part of the government's larger goal to gradually move towards a carbon neutral economy. Besides supporting sustainable farming, the agroforestry also provides ecological services and acts as a carbon sink.

