

Pvt teak, sandalwood tree plantations get state nod

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Panaji: Giving impetus to commercial tree plantation on non-forest land, the state cabinet on Wednesday took a policy decision to promote the same on private land in Goa through simplified regulatory regime and ease of doing business.

Stating that the government aims to promote private forest plantation, chief minister Pramod Sawant encouraged people to plant tree varieties including teak, rosewood, khair, sandalwood, kindal and madat.

Further he said that once a tree is planted for commercial purpose, the one planting it will not need to approach the forest officials to cut it. This permission will be granted at the time of planting the tree itself.

According to the government, this scheme will provide various benefits including generation of employment through greening on private land, promoting Swampoorna Goa and Atmanirbhar Bharat in afforestation, ease of doing business by simplification of regulatory regime, an increase in tree and minor forest produce-based economic activities, enhanced supply of raw material for industries for meeting requirement of forest/wood products, bringing in private investments, application of best practices in tree plantation and enhanced ecological services and mitigation of climate change.

In 2014, the Union ministry of agriculture and farmers welfare formulated the National Agro Forestry Policy to promote tree plantation by farmers and other landowner. The policy recommends a supportive regulatory framework for felling and transit of trees grown under agro and farm forestry systems.

Since Goa is located in the highly favourable agro-climatic zone, locals can take up commercial tree plantations on private land for economic benefits. This policy will also address the apprehension that trees grown on private land may be categorised as private forest at a later date, preventing land owners from felling and disposing of trees grown on their land, the cabinet said.

