

Reserved Forests

3269. **SHRI BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI** : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the total area of reserved and unreserved forests land as per the latest data in each state;

(b) the steps proposed to be taken to check the deforestation; and

(c) the action proposed to be taken against the persons who have settled in the reserved forest land ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) Statewise forests land according to legal classification is given in the attached statement.

(b) Following steps have been taken to check deforestation :

(i) Supply of fuelwood and fodder is being increased through social/farm-forestry.

(ii) The Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 has been made more stringent through its amendment in 1988.

(iii) Guidelines have been issued to the State Governments to associate Village Communities, Voluntary Agencies and other Non Government Organisations in regeneration and protection of degraded forests.

(iv) Guidelines have been issued to the State Government to consider banning tree felling in the hills above 1000 metres altitude, atleast for some years.

(v) Forest Protection measures are being intensified, including strengthening of infrastructure facilities, to curb biotic interference in the forests.

(c) The Government of India has issued guidelines to the State Governments to regularise, subject to the provision of compensatory afforestation, encroachments of eligible categories where the State Governments had taken a decision to regularise and evolved eligibility criteria prior to enactment of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. All encroachments on forest lands that took place after 24-10-1980 and also the ineligible encroachments of prior date are required to be immediately evicted.

STATEMENT

Area under forests (1985-86) by legal status

(in Sq Kms.)

State/U.T.	Reserved	Protected	Unclassified	Total Forest Area
Andhra Pradesh	49921	12343	1507	63771
Arunachal Pradesh	13653	8	37879	51540
Assam	17277	3373	10058	30708
Bihar	5051	24169	7	29227
Goa, Daman & Diu	42	—	1208	1250
Gujarat	13490	1020	4810	19320

(in Sq. kms.)

State/U.T.	Reserved	Protected	Unclassified	Total Forest Area
Haryana	229	1109	361	1699
Himachal Pradesh	1825	17196	2304	21325
Jammu & Kashmir	20182	—	—	20182
Karnataka	28611	3931	6103	38645
Kerala	11036	—	182	11218
Madhya Pradesh	80996	69082	5336	155414
Maharashtra	42823	15366	5969	64158
Manipur	1377	4171	9606	15154
Meghalaya	978	12	7524	8514
Mizoram	9048	1647	5240	15935
Nagaland	86	507	8032	8625
Orissa	26108	33427	20	59555
Punjab	43	1101	1676	2823
Rajasthan	13970	14170	3150	31290
Sikkim	2650	—	—	2650
Tamil Nadu	18375	3390	614	22379
Tripura	2571	291	2436	6298
Uttar Pradesh	34461	884	5412*	51337*
West Bengal	7054	3772	1053	11879
A & N Islands	3059	4112	—	7171
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	203	3	—	206
All India	406119	215087	131067*	752273

*10580 Sq. Km. Unclassified Forest area outside forest department.

Plantation for Fuel

3270. SHRI RAM PUJAN PATEL : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether villages are facing a shortage of fuel due to ban imposed on cutting of trees;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard,

(c) whether incentives are being given to the villagers for plantation of

certain type of trees which they can cut as per their requirements; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) and (b) There is a general shortage of fuel in many rural areas of the country. There is no general ban on the cutting of trees; tree-cutting is regulated at the State-level by legislation and rules laid down for this purpose.