

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:7611
ANSWERED ON:15.05.2000
EXPENDITURE AND INCOME FROM FORESTS
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Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) the comparative annual expenditure and income from forests of the country;
- (b) whether the forest area of the country is decreasing; and
- (c) if so, the manner in which the Government would consider on alternative investment policy with regard to forests?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS

(SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI)

(a) The details of annual expenditure and income from forests are not compiled in this Ministry and these are maintained by the respective State Governments.

(b) The Forest Survey of India, Dehradun has been assessing the forest resources of the country on a periodical basis since 1987. The recorded forest area of the country as per the State of Forest Report, 1987 was 751,846 sq.km whereas it is 765,210 sq.km as per State of Forest Report, 1997. However, the forest cover of the country has decreased from 640,819 sq.km as per the 1987 assessment to 633,379 sq.km compared to 1997 assessment.

(c) The Ministry has formulated National Forestry Action Programme for sustainable development of forests and bringing one third area of the country under forest/tree cover for the next 20 years. The current investment in forestry sector is Rs.1615 crores from all sources as against the average annual requirement of Rs.4669 crores per annum as per the National Forestry Action Programme. The Programme calls for alternative means and mechanism of fund mobilisation.