

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:14
ANSWERED ON:24.07.2000
SALINE FORESTS
TRILOCHAN KANUNGO

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the saline coastal forests on the east coast have been destroyed;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any scientific study has been made on the effects of depletion of saline forests on climate, environment and natural calamity;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken/ proposed to be taken by the Government to raise new saline forests on the east coast during the last three years commencing from 1997-98?

Answer

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU)

- (a) & (b) Although the State of Forest Report, 1997 has reported a marginal increase in the saline forests in the East Coast, these areas continue to be under biotic pressure due to encroachments, aquaculture, agricultural activities, uncontrolled grazing and cutting for fuel wood.
- (c)&(d) This Ministry has not commissioned any scientific study on the effects of depletion of saline forests on climate, environment and natural calamity.
- (e) This Ministry is implementing a Scheme for Conservation and Management of Mangroves and Coral Reefs since 1986. The scheme includes measures for protection, conservation, afforestation and regeneration of degraded mangrove areas on the East Coast. Development of Mangroves is an identified Thrust Area of the Ministry for priority implementation.