

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:363

ANSWERED ON:18.08.2003

DEFORESTATION

A.F. GOLAM OSMANI;CHARAN DAS MAHANT

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

- (a) whether in a bid to save the forests from deforestation the Union Government have decided to promote the use of non-wood forest products;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the State Governments have been asked to identify non-wood forest products;
- (d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reports submitted by the State Governments in this regard ; and
- (e) the further action the Union Government propose to take to save forests from deforestation?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House .

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 363 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 18.08.2003 REGARDING DEFORESTATION

- (a) Several measures have been taken by Government for conservation, protection and control of forests. Promotion of use of non-wood forest products to reduce the demand on forests for timber is one of such measures.
- (b) Various other measures taken by Government, inter-alia include the following:
  - (i) Legal measures like Indian Forest Act, 1927, Wild Life Protection Act, 1972, Forest Conservation Act 1980 and Environment Protection Act, 1986 and the rules, guidelines thereof.
  - (ii) Management measures like working of forests according to approved Working Plans, Forest Development Agencies and Joint Forest Management.
  - (iii) Financial measures like providing assistance to the States/Union Territories under Centrally Sponsored Schemes and externally aided projects.
  - (iv) Other measures like creation of Protected Areas, substitution of wood etc.
- (c) State/UT Governments have been asked to take up at least 10% of the area to be covered under Centrally Sponsored Scheme of `National Afforestation Programme` for Non-Wood Forest Products which include bamboo and medicinal plants.
- (d) The target for the bamboo plantation under National Afforestation Programme during the 10th Five Year Plan is 50,000 hectares. Project involving plantation on 37,602 ha have been sanctioned till date.
- (e) Government has taken a decision to provide Central assistance to all the States/UTs for working plans and development of infrastructure under the Integrated Forest Protection Scheme.