

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:357
ANSWERED ON:21.08.2006
FOREST COVER
Vallabhaneni Shri Balashowry

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

- (a) Whether as per the National Forestry Action Plan (NFAP) of India 1999, the total requirement of funds for the 20 year period has been estimated to achieve the requisite target of improvement and expansion of Forest and Tree Cover;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the action plan prepared to achieve this goal; and
- (c) the steps taken to achieve both the financial and physical target?

Answer

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI A. RAJA)

(a) to (c): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN PARTS (a), (b) & (c) OF THE STARRED QUESTION NO. 357 FOR ANSWER ON 21.8.2006 REGARDING FOREST COVER BY SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI

(a) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Environment & Forests has formulated National Forestry Action Programme (NFAP), a comprehensive strategic long term plan for the next twenty years to address the issues underlying the major problems of the forestry sector in the country in line with the National Forest Policy, 1988. The objective of the NFAP is to bring 33 % of the geographical area of the country under forest/tree cover and to arrest de-forestation for achieving sustainable development of forests.

(b) The National Forestry Action Programme has five main components which are as under:

1. Protect Existing Forest Resources: It has three main-sub programmes.

- (i) forest protection,
- (ii) soil and water conservation, and
- (iii) protected areas and biodiversity conservation.

2. Improve Forest Productivity: It has four main sub-programmes.

- (i) rehabilitation of degraded forests,
- (ii) research and technology development,
- (iii) development of Non-Wood Forest Products and
- (iv) assisting private initiatives with community participation.

3. Reduce Total Demand: It has three main sub programmes for efficient use of

- (i) fuel wood and fodder,
- (ii) timber, and
- (iii) Non-Wood Forest Products.

4. Strengthen Policy and Institutional Framework: It has three main sub programmes.

- (i) Central forestry administration,
- (ii) Central forestry institutions, and
- (iii) State forestry administration and institutions.

5. Expand Forest Area: It has two main sub-programmes.

- (i) Tree plantation on forest and non-forest lands, and
- (ii) people's participation in plantations and their protection. The implementation of National Forest Action Programme requires huge financial resources and it is estimated that Rs.133903 crores would be required for twenty years to bring one third of the area of the

country under forest/tree cover and sustainable development of forests. The component wise details are enclosed as annexure-1.

(c) The Planning Commission has been requested to step up allocation to the forestry sector in the annual plans of State and Central Government for implementation of the National Forestry Action Programme to achieve the desired objectives of the sustainable development of forests. The Central Government has invested Rs.1705.9 crores under various schemes of forest and wildlife during last six years. The details are enclosed as annexure-2.