

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3653
ANSWERED ON:18.12.2006
AFFORESTATION
Bhakta Shri Manoranjan

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

- (a) whether the Government has undertaken a study on systematic forest inventories in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Union Government has identified any region in the country which are denuded and taken up for forestry;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken/proposed to develop the denuded forests in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

(a) & (b) The Forest Survey of India conducts systematic inventory of the forest resources of the country on sampling basis. For conducting systematic inventory of the forests, the country has been divided into 14 physiographic zones based on similarity in vegetation, climate, soil conditions etc. and sixty districts representing all the physiographic zones are randomly selected on a two year cycle for inventory of forest resources. The results obtained from the selected districts are aggregated at the physiographic zone level and finally at the national level to obtain the estimates of growing stock. In addition, the Forest Survey of India carries out assessment of the forest cover of the country through image processing of digital satellite data.

(c), (d) & (e) The various steps taken by the Central Government to develop the denuded/degraded forest areas are as under: -

(i) Management measures like working of forests according to approved Working Plans; Forest Development Agencies and eliciting people's participation through Joint Forest Management.

(ii) Implementation of National Afforestation Programme (NAP) Scheme for regeneration of degraded forests and adjoining forest lands during the Tenth Five Year Plan. The Scheme is being implemented through a two-tier decentralized mechanism of Forest Development Agency (FDA) at forest division level and Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMCs) at village level.

(iii) A restructured scheme for Grants-in-Aid for greening India has been launched in 2005-2006 to promote production and use of quality planting material in tree planting.

(iv) States have been advised to constitute State-level coordination committees under chairmanship of Chief Secretaries for eliciting cooperation of all land-owning Departments for contributing towards increase in Forest and Tree Cover.

(v) Guidelines for rationalizing of felling and transit regulations for tree species growth on non-forest private lands to promote large-scale afforestation in non-forest areas.

(vi) A Multi-Stake Holder Partnership (MSP) framework for afforestation of degraded lands has been mooted.

In addition, the State / Union Territory Governments are also implementing afforestation programmes under various schemes.