

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:824
ANSWERED ON:27.11.2006
DEFORESTATION
Saradgi Shri Iqbal Ahmed

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

- (a) whether the country is losing its wildlife due to deforestation and illegal felling of trees;
- (b) if so, whether the Ministry in consultation with the Ministry of Rural Development has a proposal for the safeguard of the wildlife;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether Finance Commission has provided funds to increase the forest and tree cover to a close level of 33%; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the schemes to utilise the allocated funds?

Answer

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

- (a) Deforestation and illegal felling of trees do have adverse impact on wildlife.
- (b) No, Sir. There is no such proposal.
- (c), Does not arise.
- (d) & (e) 12th Finance Commission has recommended a grant of Rs.1000 crore spread over the period 2005-10 for maintenance of forests. This grant is an additionality over and above what the states have been spending through their forest departments. This amount has been distributed among the states based on their forest area for preservation of forest wealth. The state-wise break-up of this grant is given at Annexure A.