

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1841

ANSWERED ON:12.03.2008

LOSS OF FOREST COVER DUE TO TSUNAMI

Adhalrao Patil Shri Shivaji;Adsul Shri Anandrao Vithoba;Mahtab Shri Bhartruhari;Verma Shri Ravi Prakash

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

(a) whether the Government has conducted any survey to see that 728 square kilometres of rich forest area has been lost because of the destruction caused by Tsunami and due to the construction of dams in several States as reported in The Hindu dated February 17, 2008; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS(SHRI S.REGUPATHY)

(a) Yes, according to the latest assessment (State of Forest Report 2005) there is a loss of 728 sq.km. of forest cover in the country. The main reasons of loss in forest cover include Tsunami and submergence of forest areas due to construction of dams.

The main reasons of loss of forest cover in different States are given in the following table.

States/UT Change Important Reasons

Andhra Pradesh -40 Felling of matured plantations by APFDC.

Assam -90 Illicit felling in insurgency affected areas, encroachment, shifting cultivation in hill districts

Chhattisgarh -129 Submergence (Champi dam, Bilaspur), shifting cultivation (Bhojmad area, Bastar), illicit felling

Gujarat -99 Large scale uprooting of Prosopis juliflora (Kuchchh district)

Madhya Pradesh -132 Submergence due to construction of dams on Narmada river (Indira Sagar, Omkareshwara, Madikheda)

Maharashtra -38 Felling of matured plantations by the FDC

Manipur -173 Shifting cultivation, flowering of bamboo

Nagaland -296 Shifting cultivation, flowering of bamboo

Uttarakhand -18 Rehabilitation of the displaced people in forest areas (Haridwar) and rotational felling of Eucalyptus (Udham Singh Nagar)

Andaman & Nicobar -178 Tsunami

Forest Survey of India (An organization under Ministry of Environment & Forests, Govt. of India) carries out forest cover assessment using remote sensing technology on a two year cycle. The results are published in 'State of Forest Report' (SFR). Besides area of forest cover at national, State/UT and district level and changes between two consecutive cycles, the maps of forest cover are also published. The SFR 2005 gives the latest information on forest cover of the country based on satellite data of the period October to December 2004 and January-February, 2005.

(b) The changes in the forest cover of States/UTs between 2001 & 2003, and between 2003 & 2005 assessments are shown in the table below.