

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1110
ANSWERED ON:03.03.2010
REPORTS OF FOREST SURVEY OF INDIA
Natrajan Meenakshi

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

- (a) whether the Forest Survey of India has been publishing reports regarding forest areas regularly since 1950;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the number of tribal development blocks in the country alongwith the percentage of areas covered by forest in 1950;
- (d) the tribal development block-wise percentage of forest area in the country as on date alongwith the density of forest cover in each forest area;
- (e) the reasons for steady decline in forest cover in tribal areas since 1950; and
- (f) the area-wise decrease in percentage of forest cover due to encroachment?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a),(b),(c)&(d) Forest Survey of India (FSI) started publishing 'State of Forest Report' since 1987. State of Forest Report gives assessment of forest cover of the country biennially. The details are at Annexure – I. As part of the forest cover assessment done by FSI, canopy density wise forest cover for all the tribal districts of the country is given at Annexure II. Tribal districts are those as identified by the Government of India under the Integrated Tribal Development Programme (ITDP).

(e)& (f) As per the latest report of 2009, forest cover in tribal districts has shown increase of 690 km² as compared to the previous assessment in 2005.