

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2063  
ANSWERED ON:10.03.2010  
CUTTING OF TREES IN URBAN AREAS  
Kaypee Shri Mohinder Singh

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware that country has lost crores of matured old trees in the name of development, which have resulted reduction in the area under forestry especially in the urban areas and have adversely affected the environment;
- (b) if so, the extent of the damage; and
- (c) the effective measures being taken/ proposed by the Government to control the unnecessary cutting of trees on both sides of roads, railways, canals and in the upcoming townships?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b) No Sir, there are no such reports of large scale loss of matured trees resulting in loss of area under forests especially in the urban areas. On the contrary, the forest and tree cover in the country, as per the State of Forest Report 2009, has shown a marginal increase over the previous assessment. The tree cover which is outside the forest areas and predominantly in the urban areas has shown an increase of 1,106 sq. km. in the country since past assessment.

(c) While considering any development project involving forest loss, utmost care is taken to ensure least diversion of forest area with minimum felling of trees. The area diverted is made good through compensatory afforestation. For development projects outside forest areas, the State/UT Governments have tree felling rules which govern cutting of trees on areas such as roadsides, railway land, canals and upcoming townships.