

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4251
ANSWERED ON:21.04.2010
INCREASE IN FOREST COVER
Sudhakaran Shri K.

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

- (a) whether forests have a major role in the mitigation of the climate change effects; and
- (b) if so, the involvement of forestry administrations in the country in the climate change negotiation as well as for developing strategies and policies for the climate change science?

Answer

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

(a) Forests play a considerable role in the mitigation of climate change as they sequester carbon and retain it for long period thereby helping mitigate increase in temperature caused by carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas

(b) Forest Officials and persons having expertise in forestry related matters are regularly involved in the climate change negotiations including preparation of National Communication to United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) on climate change, assessment of climate change impacts on forestry sector and developing strategies and relevant policies on climate change.

Under the National Action Plan on Climate Change, a National Mission for a 'Green India' is being drafted with a view to increase the forest cover and its density through afforestation and improvement of the forest cover in degraded forest lands.