

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:180

ANSWERED ON:15.07.2009

EXPANSION OF FOREST COVER

Mahtab Shri Bhartruhari;Munda Shri Arjun

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

- (a) the area in hectares and percentage which is under forest cover in the country, State-wise;
- (b) the national average of forest cover in hectares and percentage;
- (c) whether Government proposes to launch a new initiative to expand forest cover in the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) the schemes-wise details of the funds provided by the Union Government for conservation, development and promotion of forests to the States including Jharkhand during the last three years and the current year, State-wise and year-wise; and
- (f) the achievement made as a result thereof?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (f) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to parts (a) to (f) of Starred Question No.180 by Shri Arjun Munda and Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab due for reply on 15/07/2009.

(a) The information is given at Annexure-I.

(b) As per State of Forest Report, 2005 published by Forest Survey of India, the forest cover in the country is 67.7 million hectares which is 20.60% of the geographical area of the country.

(c) & (d) The Ministry of Environment and Forests has mooted a new scheme, namely Gram/Panchayat Van Yojana to expand forest cover on non-forest lands involving Panchayati Raj Institutions. Under the National Action Plan on Climate Change announced by the government, a National Mission for a "Green India" has been mooted. In addition, Additional Central Assistance for 'Accelerated Programme' of Restoration and Regeneration of Forest Cover, new state plan scheme has been introduced in the Union Budget of 2009-10 with an allocation of Rs. 500 crore.

(e) & (f) The Ministry of Environment and Forests is implementing following major schemes for conservation, development and promotion of forests.

- (i) National Afforestation Programme.
- (ii) Integrated Forest Protection Scheme (now renamed as Intensification of Forest Management).
- (iii) Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats.
- (iv) Project Tiger.
- (v) Project Elephant.

Details of the funds provided in these schemes, State-wise and year-wise, by Union Government during the last three years and current year are given at Annexure-II (i) to II (v). With the help of these schemes, it has been possible to gradually improve the forest and tree cover in the country; improved protection and management regime of the forests including the Wildlife areas and to build up a momentum towards involvement of local communities through Joint Forest Management activities in the management of forests and wildlife resources in the country.