

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:661
ANSWERED ON:28.07.2010
DEGRADED FOREST LAND
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Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of degraded forests land in the country at present, State-wise;
- (b) whether the Union Government proposes to utilize the degraded forest land;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

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

(a) Separate assessment of degraded forest land in the country as a classification has not been undertaken by the Ministry of Environment and Forests. However, as per the latest State of Forest Report, 2009 (SFR-2009) published by the Forest Survey of India, the categories 'Open Forest' and 'Scrub' constitute an area of 288,377 Sq. Km. and 41,525 Sq.Km. respectively, totaling 329,902 Sq.Km. which may be categorised as degraded forest. The State-wise area of 'Open Forest' and 'Scrub' are given in Annexure.

(b), (c) and (d) The Ministry of Environment and Forests is implementing National Afforestation Programme (NAP) Scheme for regeneration of degraded forests and adjoining lands. The Scheme is being implemented through a decentralized setup of Forest Development Agency (FDA) at the Forest Division level and Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMCs) at village level. As on 31-3-2010, 800 FDA projects have been operationalized to treat an area of 1.69 mha. area through 42,535 JFMCs. A sum of Rs.1056.74 crores has been released to the FDAs in various States during last 3 years (2007-08 to 2009-10). In addition, various State Governments are also implementing schemes for improvement of degraded forest utilizing State funds and externally aided projects.