

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2893

ANSWERED ON:11.08.2010

FOREST COVER

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

- (a) whether the temperatures during the summer months in the recent past have recorded an all time high due to decrease in forest cover ;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the decrease in forest cover has been very alarming in several States/U.Ts during the last three years;
- (d) if so the extent of decrease reported in each of the last three years in the States/ U.Ts including the present forest cover State/U.T.-wise;
- (e) the details of proposals submitted by the States/U.Ts. for increasing forest cover;
- (f) the details of proposals approved by the Government State/U.Ts.-wise alongwith funds allocated for the purpose; and
- (g) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to increase the forest cover in the country?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) As per the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) the average monthly mean temperature rise (Å°C) with respect to 1971-2000 over the country as a whole during the recent years (2001-2010) for summer months are as follows:

YEAR MAR APR MAY

2001	0.6107	0.0729	0.6586
2002	0.9942	0.8556	0.8058
2003	0.4047	0.8145	0.6162
2004	2.0069	0.9254	-0.0245
2005	0.8414	0.1686	0.183
2006	0.5272	0.3927	0.5268
2007	0.183	1.1337	0.669
2008	0.9696	0.0599	0.2058
2009	1.1776	0.8662	0.5787
2010	2.2736	2.0255	1.167

The temperature variability is a combination of natural and anthropogenic causes and not limited to change of forest cover.

(c) As per the latest forest cover assessment made by Forest Research Institute, (FSI) based on interpretations of satellite data, there has been a net increase of 728 square kilometers over the previous assessment. Some States / Union Territories (UTs) have shown a net increase in forest cover where as some States / Union Territories have shown a net decrease in forest cover and some have shown no net change.

(d) As per the FSI, the State / UTs wise forest cover changes are given at Annexure A.

(e)&(f)The Ministry of Environment & Forests is implementing National Afforestation Programme (NAP) Scheme for regeneration of degraded forest and adjoining areas in the country. The scheme is being implemented through a decentralized mechanism of State Forest Development Agency (SFDA) at the State Level, Forest Development Agency (FDA) at Forest Division Level and Joint Forest Division Committees (JFMCs) at Village Level. As on 31.03.2010, 800 FDA Projects have been approved in 28 States in the Country to treat an area of 1.69 mha through 42535 JFMCs since inception of the Scheme in 2002. The details of number of projects approved and funds released under the NAP Scheme since inception of the scheme are given in Annexure B.

(g) The following steps have been taken to promote afforestation / re-plantation that would, inter-alia, improve the forest cover in the country.

A National Mission for Green India has been mooted under the National Action Plan on Climate Change. The Mission under formulation aims to double the target area to be taken up under afforestation/eco-restoration in India in the next 10 years, taking the total area to be afforested /eco-restored to 20 million hectare.

The 13th Finance Commission has recommended Rs.5000 crores for five years starting from 2010-11 for conservation and development of forests.

Additional Central Assistance of Rs.81.66 crores has been released to the States during 2009-10 for Restoration and Regeneration of Forest Cover.

Tree plantation is a permissible activity under a number of schemes of other Ministries of Government of India, notably Ministry of Rural Development and Ministry of Agriculture.