

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4103

ANSWERED ON:18.08.2010

DENSITY OF FOREST COVER .

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

- (a) whether there is rapid decline in the density of the forest cover in each State/UT during each of the last three years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise;
- (c) whether the Government has recently conducted a survey to assess the quality of trees available in our forests;
- (d) if so, the outcome thereof;
- (e) whether the Government proposes to plant more teak trees in certain States where the weather is more conducive for their survival;
- (f) if so, the State/UT identified for the purpose; and
- (g) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to increase the density of forest cover in our forests?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT & FOREST (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH):

- (a) No, Sir. Most of the States / UTs show a net increase and only few States show a net decrease in the density wise forest cover distribution as per the last assessment made by Forest Survey of India by interpretation of satellite images.
- (b) The detailed density of forest cover in State/UT-wise as per the last two assessments is given in Annexure
- (c)&(d) No such study has been conducted so far.
- (e)&(f) The Ministry of Environment and Forests is implementing National Afforestation Programme (NAP) Scheme for afforestation and regeneration of degraded forests and adjoining areas in the country. The choice of species including teak depends upon local edaphic and climatic factors of the area undertaken for afforestation / regeneration.
- (g) Various measures taken to promote afforestation / tree planting to improve the forest cover in the country are as under: -
 - # Under National Action Plan on Climate Change announced by the Government, a National Mission for Green India has been initiated;
 - # XIIIth 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 planting is a permissible activity under various schemes of Ministry of Rural Development, Ministry of Agriculture etc;