

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2519

ANSWERED ON:24.11.2010

AFFORESTATION IN DROUGHT AFFECTED AREAS

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

- (a) whether deforestation is one of the causes of global warming and green house gas emissions in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has prepared/ proposes to prepare afforestation plan in the drought affected areas of the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof including the funds released therefor, State-wise;
- (e) whether any evaluation has been conducted about National afforestation Programme (NAP) and people's participation through the mechanism of joint forest management; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and the extent of contribution of NAP and other programmes towards controlling of global warming and climate change?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) Deforestation is one of the indicators of the global warming and green house gas emissions in the World. However, in case of India, the deforestation does not seem to be a cause of global warming and green house gas emission because the forest cover has either remained static or has marginally increased over the years as per India State of Forest Report 2009.

(c) & (d) The Ministry of Environment and Forests has not prepared or proposes to prepare specific afforestation plan for the drought affected areas of the country. However, the Ministry is implementing National Afforestation Programme (NAP) Scheme for regeneration of degraded forests and adjoining areas through people participation in the country. The scheme is being implemented through a decentralized mechanism of State Forest Development Agency at State level, Forest Development Agency at Forest Division level and Joint Forest Management Committees at village level. The State-wise details of funds released under the NAP Scheme during last three years from 2007-08 to 2009-10 are given in the Annexure.

(e) & (f) The Ministry of Environment and Forests undertook the mid-term evaluation of the National Afforestation Programme. The review brought out the need to further strengthen the scheme addressing certain constraints. It was considered desirable, inter-alia, to further decentralize the scheme administration to the states, modify the institutional arrangements, streamline the fund flow, and add two new components with a view to enhance the delivery of the programme. The contribution of the NAP and other Afforestation programmes of the Ministry of Environment and Forests towards controlling global warming and climate change has not been specifically assessed. However, it is well recognized that the rehabilitation of degraded forests and afforestation works will, inter-alia, help in addressing global warming and climate change.