

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1647  
ANSWERED ON:07.03.2011  
PROTECTION OF MANGROVE FORESTS  
Swamygowda Shri N Cheluvarya Swamy

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

- (a) whether the Government has a specific plan to protect the mangrove forests on the east-coast of the country;
- (b) if so, whether there are larger cluster of mangrove forests on the Karnataka coast;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government has received any representation that these mangrove forests are being destroyed;
- (e) if so, the details thereof;
- (f) whether the Government has neglected protection of the mangrove forests and their ecology;
- (g) if so, the details thereof; and
- (h) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

**Answer**

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

(a) The Ministry has a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Conservation & Management of mangroves in the country. The mangroves of the East Coast of India are in the deltaic regions of river systems such as Cauvery in Tamil Nadu; Krishna and Godavari in Andhra Pradesh; Brahmani, Baitarani and Mahanadi in Orissa; and Ganges in West Bengal. Under the Scheme, during the last three financial years (2007-08, 2008-09, and 2009-10), a sum of Rs 483.70 Lakhs to West Bengal; Rs. 234.77 Lakhs to Orissa; Rs. 34.46 Lakhs to Andhra Pradesh and Rs. 378.12 Lakhs to Tamil Nadu have been released for the conservation and management of mangroves.

(b) & (c) As per the report of Forest Survey of India (2009), the State of Karnataka has a mangrove cover of 3 sq. km. The district-wise mangrove cover of Karnataka is as follows:

S. No.	District	Very Dense Mangrove	Moderately Dense Mangrove	Open Mangrove	Total
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1	Uttar Kannada	-	1	-	1
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2	Udupi	-	2	-	2
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Total	-	3	-	3	
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(d) & (e) As per the report of Forest Survey of India (2009), the mangrove cover in the country is 4,639 sq. km. Compared with 2005 assessment, there has been an increase of 58 sq km in mangrove cover. This is mainly because of the plantations and protection measures in the States of Gujarat, Orissa, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal. Decrease in mangrove cover in andamans & Nicobar Islands is attributed to after effects of tsunami.

(f) No, Sir.

(g) Does not arise.

(h) Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Conservation and Management of Mangroves, 100% central assistance is extended to Coastal States/Union Territories, who so request, for implementation of their approved Management Action Plans which comprise components such as Survey and Demarcation, Afforestation and Restoration of Mangroves, Alternate and Supplementary Livelihoods, Protection Measures, Education and Awareness etc. During the last three years, the Ministry has provided financial assistance to various Coastal States/Union Territories to the tune of Rs. 18/- crores for the conservation & management of mangroves.

The Ministry has issued the Coastal Regulation Zone Notification, 2011 and Island Protection Zone Notification, 2011 on 6th January, 2011. Under the Notifications, the mangroves are categorized as Coastal Regulation Zone-I(a) which have to be demarcated on the Coastal Zone Management Plan and protected. Only those activities which are permitted under the Notification can be undertaken in the mangrove area. Destruction of mangroves for activities other than those specified in the Notification is prohibited and attracts punitive action under Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.