

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1722

ANSWERED ON:07.03.2011

INCREASE IN FOREST COVER

Bavalia Shri Kuvajibhai Mohanbhai;Deka Shri Ramen;Rai Shri Prem Das;Reddy Shri K. Jayasurya Prakash

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

- (a) the area in hectares and percentage, which is under forest cover in the country, State-wise;
- (b) the national average of forest cover in hectares and percentage;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to launch new initiative to expand forest cover in the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the funds provided by the Government for conservation, development and promotion of forests to the States including Gujarat during the last three years, State-wise and year -wise; and
- (e) the achievement made as a result thereof?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b) The State-wise area in hectares and percentage under forest cover of the country as per 'India State of Forest Report 2009' published by Forest Survey of India is given in Annexure. The forest area of the National Average is 69089900 hectare which is 21.02% of geographical area.

(c) to (e) As a new initiative to expand forest cover,"National Mission for a Green India" has been recently approved by Prime Minister's Council on Climate Change. The Mission focuses on enhancing ecosystem services and carbon sink through afforestation on degraded land in line with the National Policy of expanding forest and tree cover in the country. In budget 2011-12, Rs. 200.00 crore has been earmarked for Green India Mission.