

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1789

ANSWERED ON:07.03.2011

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR FOREST COVER

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

- (a) the names of States having forest cover more than the National coverage;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to provide special financial assistance to the States which have forest cover more than the National coverage;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the time by which this assistance is likely to be made available to these States; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor and the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) The names of the States having forest cover more than the National average (21.02%) as per the latest assessment carried out by the Forest Survey of India and published in 'India State of Forest Report 2009' are as follows:

Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Chattisgarh, Goa, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Orissa, Sikkim, Tripura and Uttarakhand. Andaman and Nicobar, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Lakshadweep are the UTs in this category.

(b), (c) & (d) XIII Finance Commission has recommended Grants-in-Aid of Rs. 5000 crores for five years starting from 2010-11 onwards to compensate the States on basis of share of National forested area falling in the State as well as to economic disability on basis of the percentage of forested area in each State. Rs. 625 crores have been released to various States during the year 2010-2011 so far. The details of allocation State wise and year wise is given in Annexure.